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Hallelujah, it's Lea!
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in SF after seven years.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 19 • 8 May 2003

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Other LGBT centers do it differently

by Joe Dignan

San Francisco's very large 40,000 square foot LGBT Community Center, wrapped in a giant red ribbon, opened with a grand ceremony in March 2002. As he cut the ribbon, Mayor Willie Brown lauded the center's mission to provide office space to small nonprofits, affordable meeting space to LGBT groups, and to be a hub for the LGBT community in San Francisco.

Now, as the *Bay Area Reporter* has previously reported, the center is swimming in red ink. It has lost \$642,000 since last July; has a \$2.3 million bank debt; has just let go about a third of its staff; is fighting lawsuits by the contractors who built it, who say they haven't been paid; and is dipping into its building fund pledges to pay daily operating expenses.

The center is unusual among the hundreds of LGBT community centers across the U.S. It is distinguished by its size (most are much smaller) and its basic business plan. According to Richard Burns, executive director of New York's LGBT center, there is no "cookie-cutter" model for an urban community center, but most successful centers in the country have grown up slowly delivering programs that fill the needs of the communities they serve. Youth centers, HIV/AIDS services, mental health programs, and anti-violence projects are staples among the members of the National Association of LGBT Community Centers. And most are small. Of the 137 centers in the country, only seven or eight have budgets over \$1 million.

The San Francisco center, however, started big, with a \$15.5 million

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Diversity of Pride grand marshals to 'give them hope'

by Zak Szymanski

The first round of votes are in, and the grand marshals for the 2003 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade have been chosen.

At press time, only the results of the ballot tallies from the general public, the San Francisco Pride membership, and the electoral college of former grand marshals were available for the front page; at a meeting on Tuesday, May 6, Pride board members were expected to choose at least one—and up to three—more marshals to ensure diversity in representation.

This year, the general public selected transgender performer Vicki Marlene as its grand marshal. Public ballots gathered a total of 2,051 votes, and of those, Marlene secured 286, the largest number for any of the 10 nominees.

Marlene, 68, started performing 50 years ago, and she hasn't stopped since, now hosting regular shows at Aunt Charlie's Lounge on Turk Street every weekend. Her donated performances have brought in thousands of dollars for charities like the AIDS and Breast Cancer Emergency Funds, and Pets Are Wonderful Support. And her long-term career has served as an inspiration for the next generation of trans and drag queen performers.

"I'm just thrilled, utterly thrilled," Marlene told the *Bay Area Reporter* about her grand marshal honor. "To think that when I started my career I was singing hoochie-cochie songs for the carnivals; now I'm grand marshal for one of the biggest parades in the



San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade grand marshals Vicki Marlene, Marina Gatto, and Terry Person-Harris

world. It's unbelievable."

Pride's general members also voted for their own nominees, resulting in a grand marshal win for Marina Gatto, 14, whose activist and advocate history is already more extensive than many adults'. The daughter of two moms and a regular volunteer with Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere, Gatto has been making presentations about alternative families to social workers, schools, and companies since she was 9 years old. She has appeared on numerous national television programs, and recently joined the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center to educate youth-offenders on how hatred affects its victims. Always seeking out venues "in desperate need of education and diversity," Gatto said she is "so excited" to be a grand marshal because it gives representation to a growing part of the LGBT population: its children.

"I strongly believe that kids are a part of the bigger community; we educate and teach people about diversity, tolerance, and acceptance," said Gatto. "It's so important that we're vocal and proud and that we show we're successful and happy and well adjusted and thriving, and I think I can be a good example of that."

Pride's electoral college, a committee of past grand and honorary marshals, chose Terry Person-Harris, executive director of Community United Against Violence, as a third grand marshal. Person-Harris, 53, has led CUAV for the past three years, and has been a part of the hate crimes and domestic violence prevention organization for 10 years.

"I think it's fabulous. I'm very excited. It's nice to finally have CUAV get some recognition."

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State regulators investigate SOMA bars

by Matthew S. Bajko

As San Francisco health officials step up outreach efforts in gay bars to stem the city's rising rates of syphilis, two South of Market establishments are being investigated by state regulators for allegedly allowing sex to occur on site.

According to the San Francisco office of the state Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control, on April 17 a patron of My Place filed a complaint alleging public urination, fights, overcrowding, drugs and lewd conduct at the bar. The complainant, who wished to remain anonymous, also stated he had observed frequent practices of oral sex on the premises.

A similar complaint was also made against the Powerhouse, with the complainant alleging the same types of problems at the bar. According to the complaint, the patron alleged that the bar allows patrons to engage in oral and anal sex and fondling of genitals in its

smoking area. The complaint also alleged that employees are aware of the conduct and sometimes participate.

"These are real blatant types of allegations," said Andrew Gomez, the district administrator for ABC. "We are following up on that complaint in regards to the allegations to see if they are true."

Despite rumors to the contrary, Gomez said his office has not received any complaints against the Hole in the Wall, another South of Market gay bar. And an investigation into AsiaSE, a South of Market restaurant and club famous for its Asian drag performers, has been dropped, according to an employee at the club.

If state regulators substantiate the allegations against My Place and the Powerhouse, Gomez said the bars could face hefty fines or have their liquor licenses revoked. However, investigators visited both bars the night of April 19 and found nothing to support the allegations made in the complaints, Gomez said.

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My Place bar on Folsom Street

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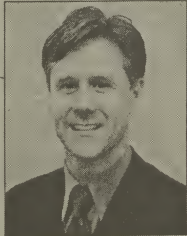
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SF Police Dept. pushes Halloween alcohol ban

by Matthew S. Bajko

Revelers coming to San Francisco's annual Halloween party in the Castro this year are being warned to leave the liquor at home.

After last year's Halloween turned violent, with police making numerous arrests and residents complaining about the drunken crowd, the San Francisco Police Department is taking a zero tolerance stand against consumption of alcohol on the city's streets. Officers will be confiscating any beer cans and liquor bottles found on the thousands of revelers expected to descend on the Castro neighborhood.

The police are instituting the new policy to try to make the festivities safe and to keep the night from turning deadly.

"There will be no alcohol on the streets," Deputy Chief Greg Suhr said at the May 1 meeting of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro. "They can buy liquor in the stores but it doesn't mean they can drink it on the street."

With only six months to go before October 31, the police are trying to spread the word about the booze ban now in the hopes that those coming to Halloween, especially those people living in areas outside of San Francisco, hear the message. Although Suhr said the Police Department does not have



Deputy Chief Greg Suhr

an advertising budget to broadcast its message, he is hopeful the media will pick up the story.

"We want to start now to get the word out that it is going to be alcohol-free," Suhr told the business owners and merchants. "We want everyone to know that Halloween is not going to be business as usual but that this is how it is going to be from here on out."

Suhr said the department intends to post officers or private security officers in front of the liquor stores in the Castro area to make sure liquor isn't flowing into the crowd. Police also will be checking people as they enter the area and confiscating any liquor partygoers bring with them.

Police also will be asking store owners not to sell alcohol Hal-

loween night, which falls on a Friday this year. Suhr said owners who do not comply may be forced to close their doors.

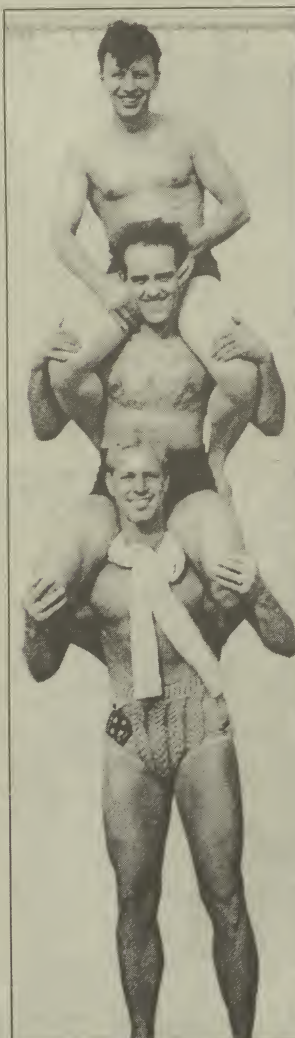
"After begging, pleading, cajoling with the owner" to stop them from selling alcohol, Suhr said "then they can be cited and shut down."

The Police Department's new policy is the first of many changes expected for this year's Halloween celebration. After years of city officials refusing to acknowledge the party as an official event, District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty is working on having the city take ownership of the party. He is working on a resolution he intends to introduce at the Board of Supervisors in coming weeks that would make Halloween a city-sanctioned event.

Also in the works for this year's Halloween is entertainment to keep the crowd occupied. Stages are planned for Castro and Market streets, with the hope of spreading out the crowd and avoiding the threat of people being crushed.

While Halloween night will be dry, the police said they have no plans to impose the same restrictions on this year's Pink Saturday party during Pride or during the more neighborhood-focused party the Saturday night before Halloween.

"We don't have any problems there so we are not going to fix it," said Mission Station Captain Greg Corrales. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

East Bay students demand LGBT safety

by Zak Szymanski

An estimated 500 people filled the room for the meeting of the San Ramon Valley School Board in Contra Costa County on Tuesday, April 29. The majority were there to urge school officials to enforce state law. The minority, however, won out through the use of homophobic rhetoric and fear-mongering, according to LGBT youth advocates.

At issue was the culmination of a two-year battle to get the school district to recognize the pervasive homophobia and alleged administrative inaction throughout the district's three high schools: California High in San Ramon, and Monte Vista High and San Ramon Valley High, both in Danville.

Led by the Queer Youth Action Team — a project of nine youth representatives coordinated by the nonprofit Center for Human Development — the effort sought to persuade school board officials to vote for a resolution affirming AB537, the Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act, a law protecting students from all hate crimes in effect since 2000.

Such basic student safety issues, however, were distorted by conservative parents and school board members who accused the group of promoting sexual deviancy.

"Hundreds of parents from the San Ramon Valley needed. Queer Youth Action Team, an aggressive homosexual lobby, will present pro-homosexual curriculum," said a flier sent around by the religious right about the board meeting.

In fact, said the Center for Human Development's Rachel Floyd, the item on the board meeting agenda contained no curriculum proposals at all.

"Be it resolved that the San Ramon Valley Unified School District Board of Education supports efforts to ensure that schools are safe places for all students including LGBTQ, gender nonconforming and straight allied youth," summarized the resolution that QYAT sought to pass.

The board never even let the resolution go up for a vote.

It took two years just to get the board to hear QYAT's statistics on student safety, said Floyd, and in reality, her group never expected the April 29 presentation to result in a vote.

"We knew the board members weren't going to pass our resolution," Floyd told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "but we still see the meeting as a success in every way. By exposing their inaction over the last two years — when they were first put on notice that homophobia is rampant in all three high schools — we did what we went in there to do."

According to a school climate

survey conducted by the Center for Human Development and answered by over 400 district students, 91 percent said they hear homophobic slurs on campus; 75 percent of teachers reportedly don't stop homophobic slurs when heard in their presence; and 25 percent of students hear phrases like "That's so gay" and "You're a fag" from the teachers themselves.

But the school board, said Floyd, has done nothing to stop the hatred and prejudice or to ensure the well-being of its students.

"They say all the right things, that school is a place to learn and these students shouldn't be harassed," said Floyd, noting that it wasn't until last month that the board finally added "sexual orientation" and "gender" to its own anti-discrimination policies, a move that brought the district in compliance with state law, at least on paper.

"Until there is action," said Floyd, "those words are wasted breath."

School officials from San Ramon Valley did not return calls from the *B.A.R.* seeking comment.

A general statement about student safety on the district Web site reads: "We have spent a great deal of time over the past three years gathering data and input from around the community regarding issues that impact

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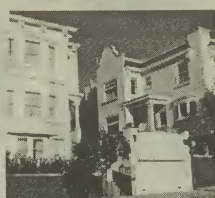
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Giving their all to be #2

by Zak Szymanski

Dozens of people from the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club packed a meeting room in the LGBT Community Center on Tuesday, May 6, to hear the political pitches of two mayoral hopefuls vying for an endorsement.

Former Supervisor Angela Alioto and City Treasurer Susan Leal gave 45-minute presentations, followed by vigorous question and answer sessions that challenged the candidates' past votes on issues and pressed them for solutions to San Francisco's problems.

There was nothing outwardly significant about the candidates' performances; both Alioto and Leal held their own, although Alioto did not seem to do as well under cross-examination of her voting record, particularly in relation to the landmark equal benefits ordinance for domestic partners.

But what was historic about Tuesday's Milk Club endorsement meeting was that for the first time, candidates were fighting for the privilege to be the club's second choice.

"I know I am probably not your first choice," Leal summarized at the end of the evening, "but I would love to be considered as your second."

With the passage of instant runoff voting, expected to be implemented for the mayor's race in November, the person with the most second choice votes in the general election could wind up winning the seat.

Knowing this, the Milk Club has become the city's first political club to adopt ranked endorsements; the club will endorse a favorite, along with a second choice recommendation, and possibly a third, in August.



Mayoral hopeful Susan Leal

It has been widely assumed, and informally confirmed, that the Milk Club will endorse Supervisor Tom Ammiano as its first choice for mayor. Some have questioned this strategy, believing that Ammiano is too far left to beat Supervisor Gavin Newsom, which seems to be the goal of both the Milk Club and the more moderate Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club. But Ammiano's record on progressive issues has earned him the respect of Milk Club members, who this year also know that their first choice endorsement can afford to be symbolic, as long as their second choice fares well.

Both Leal and Alioto, recognizing the Milk Club's apparent leanings, each painted themselves as the best candidate to beat Newsom.

Alioto, pointing to her accom-

plishments as supervisor and as a discrimination attorney for the past six years, proposed community land trusts as a way to secure housing for the working class, and attacked Mayor Willie Brown's inflated managerial payrolls as bogus positions created for his best friends that have single-handedly created the city's budget deficit.

Alioto also talked about closing the loopholes to the EBO, noting that compliant companies can sell their contracts to others without domestic partnership benefits; a copied abstract from her stint as supervisor, however, was soon passed around to show that she voted to allow EBO exemptions for subcontractors.

Leal, herself a lesbian and co-sponsor of the EBO, had no such inconsistencies, and seemed to be able to explain her less-than-progressive votes as financial decisions based on how they would affect city revenues.

Leal described the city's handling of the budget crisis as "dumb-it-down fiscal restraint" with an emphasis on hiring and salary freezes. For instance, Brown's office requested that she leave some salaried auditor positions vacant, when "each one of those auditors brings in \$1 million for the city."

In the end, each candidate summarized herself as the best person for the job of mayor, albeit the next-best person for the Milk Club to endorse.

"It's fair to say that in talking with the membership, most people's hearts are with Tom as first choice," Robert Haaland, the Milk Club president, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. But the members remain open-minded, he said, about other left-leaning candidates.

And this time around, their not-quite-favorite may matter more than ever. ▼

Death linked to poppers use

by Ed Walsh

I am a 26-year-old gay male," Matthew Stoinski wrote last year in his online journal. "I understand 'IT' I am the master of 'My Universe.' Infinite possibilities now exist for me. I will from this point forward effect every aspect of 'My Universe' allowing everything to remember me."

Infinite possibilities ended last

month for the popular San Francisco man. Now, those in his universe are remembering him with deep sorrow for a very promising life cut short.

Stoinski died April 9 in his apartment at 593 Castro Street after using poppers, drinking, and possibly "huffing" ethyl chloride gas, according to a San Francisco Medical Examiner's report released this week.

Stoinski was found dead by his

roommate after he was absent from work for two days. A plastic bag was found in his right hand, indicating that he may have been using it to "huff" or inhale vapors, according to the death report. Poppers and an aerosol canister of head cleaner containing ethyl chloride were found in his possession.

According to his toxicology report, Stoinski had a lethal level of

next page ►

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AIDS research threatened by anthrax

by Bob Roehr

The Bush administration has ordered the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to spend \$233 million this year to purchase a next generation anthrax vaccine, according to an article in the May 6 issue of *Science* by leading AIDS journalist Jon Cohen.

NIAID traditionally has not purchased vaccines from others, nor has it directly played a role in carrying out public health programs. The financial hit would put a tremendous strain on its ability to fund new research grants for the current year.

"It was a big surprise," NIAID Director Anthony Fauci acknowledged in the article. But ever the good soldier, he claimed that the damage could be minimized by restructuring payments on existing grants and cutting new ones from four to three and a half

years. Those details are still being worked out.

The news brought a sharp protest from leading AIDS advocates across the nation in a May 6 news release. Among the group is Mark Harrington with the Treatment Action Group, Chris Collins of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, and Lei Chou with the AIDS Treatment Data Network. The list of organizations signing on to the statement continues to grow.

While acknowledging the potential threat of anthrax used as bioterrorism, they said, "Attempting to cut corners by shifting money from research into diseases that cause untold death around the world every day is a short-sighted and misguided policy."

"The cuts mandated by OMB [the Office of Management and Budget] will reduce the number and duration of current AIDS research grants, reducing the funded grants from approximately 25

percent (one quarter) to 18 percent (less than one fifth) of the applications. Such cuts will severely impact promising research on AIDS, asthma, and other major infectious and allergic diseases that kill thousands of Americans each year."

The advocates called on the administration "to immediately restore the cuts made to the NIAID research budget. ... Instead of robbing NIH and delaying research into vaccines and better treatments for AIDS and other diseases, OMB should direct the Department of Homeland Security to fully fund the anthrax vaccine contracts."

NIAID also has had to redirect resources to deal with the latest emerging infectious disease threat, SARS. Included among them are some 30 members of the Vaccine Research Center at NIH who have been reassigned from work on a vaccine for HIV to work on SARS. ▼

Blacks address HIV vaccine myths

by Matthew S. Bajko

After the Brisbane biotech company VaxGen Inc. announced in February that its HIV vaccine showed some signs of success in African Americans, the rumors began to circulate.

Since the vaccine only showed partial results in blacks and Asians, some said the company wasn't going to bother producing the vaccine. Others had heard the vaccine was already in production.

Another story being circulated had it that Magic Johnson had taken the vaccine and was cured of AIDS.

Helping to fuel these misperceptions was the initial response to the vaccine results from the AIDS community, with many scientists and activists blasting the company for what they perceived to be manipulation of the study's data. Others saw hints of racism in

how the study results were being attacked.

"There has been a lot of buzz about the results. Some information has been accurate, a lot of it has not been accurate," said Gavin Morrow-Hall, a community educator with the city's AIDS office.

Morrow-Hall, who is black, helped organized a forum last week to dispel some of the myths circulating around the VaxGen study and HIV vaccines in the African American community. More than 75 people gathered at Glide Memorial Church on Thursday, May 1 to discuss the study results and determine what steps can be taken to better engage blacks in the search for an HIV vaccine.

"The study exposes the fault lines between blacks and whites," said Andre Robertson, director of prevention for the Black Coalition on AIDS.

One problem clear to many who work in AIDS research about

the VaxGen study was a lack of minority involvement in the research.

"I think VaxGen's national advisory board was not diverse enough and VaxGen wasn't responsive enough," Susan Buchbinder, director of HIV research in the AIDS office, told the audience. "There is not enough effort to engage African Americans and communities of color in vaccine research."

That problem is clear simply by looking at the data from the VaxGen study. When the company reported its results in February, it said overall that the vaccine did not protect against HIV. However, the company did report that among blacks, Asians, and women, the study showed "a statistically significant reduction of HIV infection" among those groups.

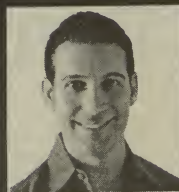
Yet that announcement is based on a relatively small number of trial participants. Out of the nearly 4,800 people in the study, only 314 were black, 73 were Asian, and 268 were women.

Among those subsets, only 13 blacks were infected with HIV, five women were infected and four

page 19 ►

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Poppers death

◀ previous page

nitrite compounds in his blood, indicating a high usage of butyl or alkyl nitrites, the active ingredient in poppers. Stoinski also had a blood alcohol level of .21 percent or nearly three times the legal driving limit.

San Francisco Medical Examiner Dr. Boyd Stephens noted that Stoinski's death was among about a half-dozen his office deals with each year that are linked to poppers use. The medical examiner added that drugs or alcohol use when combined with poppers could add significantly to the danger of poppers use.

Stoinski's sudden death left those who knew him stunned and saddened.

"He was a unique person and a strong presence," said Stoinski's

neighbor, Gwyn Walters. "We were so happy to have him in the building. He's the best friend and best neighbor you could ever have."

"He was like old San Francisco," Walters added, sobbing. "He had the biggest heart. He took care of so many people. He had an incredible spirit. He was a wonderful person. And he was a lot of fun."

Stoinski worked at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco, according to his published obituary. Walters said she believes he worked with computers, possibly as a financial analyst.

"He had a brilliant mind," she noted.

A makeshift memorial for Stoinski that included flowers and a large banner was maintained for several days last month at 18th and Castro. His parents and most of his family are from Minnesota. His funeral was from San Francisco on April 16. ▼

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OPEN FORUM

Davis's murky gay record

Governor Gray Davis did a rare thing last week: he granted parole to a man who was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of a friend during an argument over drug money. This is only the fifth time since 1999 that Davis has approved the recommendation of his own parole board for the supervised release of a prisoner. Does Davis's latest move give any hope to the two openly gay prisoners who are eligible for parole? We hope so, but we're not holding our breath.

Both gay prisoners — Robert Rosenkrantz and Mark Smith — were convicted of second-degree murder in unrelated homicides in Los Angeles County in 1985. Both men have spent years behind bars and have been determined to be eligible for parole by the Davis-appointed board. Davis repeatedly has blocked parole for the men — either by denying outright the board's recommendation or by appealing court rulings ordering that the men be paroled. Smith is very ill. Rosenkrantz has been described as a model prisoner and, like the man Davis paroled last week, has participated in various prison programs.

With a recall threat looming from conservative Republicans, Davis would be wise to grant parole to both gay prisoners (neither of whom show evidence of being a danger to society) if for no other reason than to shore up support in the LGBT community. When Davis held a fundraiser at the LGBT Community Center last fall in the midst of his tough re-election campaign, demonstrators took issue with the fact that Rosenkrantz and Smith have had their parole recommendations blocked by the governor.

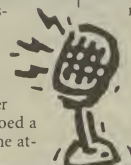
Recent polls show strong voter disapproval for Davis from across the electorate. A Democrat, Davis is disliked strongly by members of his own party, and his support

in the LGBT community would have to be considered lukewarm at best. Recent news reports in this paper have highlighted what appears to be Davis's resistance to a sweeping domestic partner rights bill now in the Legislature and he is said to object to a bill that would protect gay and lesbian youth in the foster care system. Davis famously vetoed a similar bill last year just before he attended the fundraiser at the community center.

The recall effort against Davis has been brewing for a while and until recently didn't seem to be going anywhere. That has changed, howev-

er, with the announcement that wealthy Southern California Congressman Darrell Issa will contribute significant funds to the recall drive so that supporters can ramp up signature gathering efforts.

We believe that Davis is well aware that many people don't like him or the way he has governed the state. He should reconsider his long-standing aversion to granting parole for eligible prisoners — whether they are gay or straight — and he should step up to the plate and support the bills now pending in the Legislature that would extend equality to same-sex couples, LGBT youth, and transgender people. ▼



Editorial



A history of fighting poppers

by Hank Wilson

Since the start of the epidemic more than 20 years ago, I have been working to educate the gay community about the hazardous link of poppers and AIDS under the name the Committee to Monitor Poppers. We rejected prohibition and our education strategy was based upon informed choice. In 1982, the committee joined with Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights in cautioning the community, and successfully pushed the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to mandate a point-of-sale warning wherever poppers were sold. West Hollywood and Los Angeles adopted the S.F. model and the state of California adopted a point-of-sale warning law as well. The San Francisco district attorney cited non-complying businesses. Signs went up overnight and poppers use declined.

From the beginning, however, contradictory poppers messages resulted in more confusion than education. The poppers industry ran full-page ads publicizing a 1983 Center for Disease Control mice study as though it exonerated poppers even though the mice exposed to the highest dose levels got thymic atrophy (the thymus produces T-cells and is an important part of the immune system). Later that same year, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services targeted gay and bisexual men and proclaimed: "Poppers were thought to affect the immune system. This theory has been ruled out." Even many doctors and scientists crossed poppers off their list of concerns.

Scientific interest in poppers revived in 1984 when Dr. Harry Haverkos implicated poppers as a risk factor for Kaposi's sarcoma (thought, at that time, to be an AIDS-related cancer). The feds, though they funded the study, refused to publish the results. The public learned of it only after Haverkos gave a copy to Dr. Donald Abrams at San Francisco General Hospital, who forwarded it to me. The B.A.R. ran a front-page story in 1984, nearly a year before the study finally was published in a medical journal. The University of Washington confirmed Haverkos's re-

sults in a study published in 2000.

In 1987, the National Institute for Drug Abuse sponsored a human study in which gay male volunteers took just three hits of poppers each. Tests found that the natural killer cell function decreased immediately by 30 percent, but returned to baseline after four days. The good news was that the immune system was not permanently damaged. The bad news was that just three hits caused people to be more susceptible to infections. These alarming results appeared four years later, in 1991, and then only in a small specialty journal that gets little notice even in professional circles.

The industry circumvented a 1988 congressional ban on poppers by changing the chemical formulations of the banned product. Congress responded once again and in 1990 banned the production or sale of the broader class of alkyl nitrates. Some characterized the effort as homophobic. The Food and Drug Administration still allows the industry to circumvent consumer protection laws by labeling the banned products as video head cleaner, boot cleaner, leather cleaner, liquid incense, and aroma.

While the federal ban stopped the full-page poppers ads common in gay porn and some gay papers, poppers remain available in adult shops nationwide, and there has been only one prosecution for violating the 1999 ban on sales.

Since the late 1990s the poppers makers have proven skillful at exploiting the burgeoning power of the Internet to bring their message to consumers. Because many of these Web sites with links to sites popular with gays are based outside the United States, deceptive advertising is more difficult to ban or prosecute. One Web site boasts: "Everyday, around the world, over 25,000 people buy a bottle of Rush Incense." Incense! Another calls poppers "as safe as aspirin." To characterize poppers as "perfectly safe" dismisses the accumulated research finding poppers immunosuppressive and a risk factor for HIV infection.

The industry has been successful in suppressing the truth about poppers, at least in at-risk communities. At a 2001 LYRIC conference for young queers, I surveyed 172 young people and found that only 14 percent knew that poppers are immunosuppressive. Many believed the "gourmet myth" that amyl is pharmaceutical grade and, therefore, not harmful like the other poppers (they are all nitrite based — including amyl). And it is the concentrated nitrates that are the danger. It's the same nitrates that the FDA restricts in bacon because they convert to carcinogenic nitrosamines. Another myth is that it is the "inferior off brands" with impurities that cause headaches. All nitrite poppers dilate blood vessels. This not only causes the headaches, but also makes unsafe sex even less safe.

Researchers report that many gay guys don't think poppers are drugs possibly because they have been promoted so visibly in gay-owned businesses. The introduction of Viagra onto the scene in recent years warrants a warning that mixing poppers with Viagra can be lethal. In 2001, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors revisited the point-of-sale warning law and requested that the health department update the language, but health department action is still pending. The manager of a chain of porn stores in San Francisco admitted he was unaware that the point-of-sale warning law required him to post warnings.

San Francisco researchers have consistently found poppers a significant risk factor for unsafe sex and HIV seroconversion. Action to implement the education strategy is overdue. Today poppers are sold openly in adult shops nationwide as if there was no federal ban. Consumer protection agencies at the local and state level have failed to protect our community by enforcing the point of sale warning laws. Despite mounting evidence, public ignorance about this gay sex drug is increasing the prevalence of poppers use by men who think they are doing something safe. It's time for all these agencies to silence the lies. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Fiscal controls lacking at center

I've been following the story on the financial issues with the LGBT center with interest as I'm an auditor as well as a board member of another nonprofit here in the city ("LGBT center deficit is \$642K," May 1).

It appears to me (from what I've read so far) that the issues all seem to originate with a lack of controls (fiscal and operational) between the board of directors and the center's management.

Granted, times are especially tough for all nonprofits here in SF who got used to large funding flows during the market bubble, but it's the fiduciary responsibility of the board to avoid deficit budgets and try and build some sort of financial cushion for the inevitable lean times that all organizations will face. It would have made sense to me to seriously examine every expenditure to make sure that it's necessary and is the lowest cost option. Dipping into a reserve fund to keep the center going is a dangerous thing - similar to someone using their credit cards to fund their lifestyle following a financial reversal. It just keeps feeding on itself.

One thing that doesn't seem to be mentioned is the absolute lack of management and community support at the center. Following the center's opening, I spent over four months attempting to schedule an event for my company's GLBT group and got nowhere. Calls and e-mails were never returned. I went to the office a few times to attempt to see someone and no one was available. I gave up in disgust and scheduled the event at a local brew pub that was more than responsive to my requests. If you're there to service the community which is your primary source of funding, it would make sense to provide those services easily instead of alienating your constituents.

If the board is really committed to making the center work, I hope they've got an audit committee scrutinizing the center's finances and controls as well as looking at how they are servicing the community.

Right now, there is no way I would donate to the center as I don't see any responsible management in place to bring it under control and chart a clear path forward to the center's long term viability. People, especially now, are leery of donating to something they don't have any faith in.

Randy Sabbagh
San Francisco

Center is collective responsibility

I hope that many of your readers have had the same reaction that I did to your recent articles on the financial condition of the gay community center - I opened up my wallet to give them a donation.

I want to encourage everyone to give something to the center. Thirty-five dollars, the cost of an individual membership, is less than the cost of a shirt, which doesn't seem unreasonable. In my case, I can donate through an excellent payroll plan sponsored by my employer, Genentech, which will also match my contribution dollar for dollar.

I think we all realize that to truly be a "community center," it takes more than just a building. Nevertheless, the construction of the building was an indispensable and visionary component in the process of creating a true home for San Francisco's large and diverse gay community. It would be shameful if we lost it. If every person who agrees with that would become a member (or a volunteer), I'm confident that the board and staff of the center will be able to turn things around in a positive way. The center is our collective responsibility, and its preservation and growth will benefit the whole community. We need to be forward-looking, and ensure that it stays around for a very long time.

Steven Weaver
San Francisco

Center tricks?

Last week a group of friends and I showed up at the LGBT center for an advertised free showing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. I had been looking forward to convincing them (and to some extent myself) that the center wasn't useless, or worse yet, actively exclusionary and classist.

The recent issue with accusations that the center had stood by while police allegedly beat gay people in order to protect a straight "San Francisco-style conservative" politician's right to hold fundraisers still wasn't sitting well with most of us ("Gay Shame takes *Newsom* and LGBT center to task," February 13), but the center had disclaimed any responsibility for any gays "getting hurt" and the night was a chance for us to see the "fun, useful side" of the center.

When we arrived, we were asked if we were members. We replied that we were not. We were told that it would cost us \$5. "We thought it was free." They replied, "Only for members." There was a stack of fliers on the table [that stated the event was free]. I picked one up. "These are all over town. Why does it not say that it's only for members on the flier?" "\$5," they replied.

My friends and I left the center and I don't think anyone plans on going back. I'm a young professional and the lousy \$5 certainly wasn't the issue. I do, however, resent members of a community being scammed by a center that is supposed to be there for us to use. Is the center so desperate for cash that they need to try to trick people into donating?

I won't be sorry to see the center go, when it does. And it will. Maybe eventually they could build one that served a purpose, other than showing movies to anyone dumb enough to pay \$5 to watch a movie in a classroom at 6:30 p.m. in support of a center whose primary purpose is apparently to act as a site for straight politicians' fundraisers with fag-bashing going on outside.

Spenser Remington
San Francisco

Gay GOPers and Santorum

After the anti-LGBT comments of Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, one of the Republican U.S. Senate leaders, it was interesting to watch the TV media response to the controversy. Though only 15 percent of LGBTs are Republican, only Patrick Guerriero, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, was the omnipresent guest on every media discussion held on Santorum's comments. Even the usually more objective C-Span featured only him to face-off with an even more conservative Republican on their discussion of the topic on April 26. However, nowhere to be found was the voice of the 85 percent of LGBTs who are largely Democratic and anything but Republican. Furthermore, Guerriero's narrowly focused comments clearly displayed more concern over how the Santorum episode would play on the national political scene, perhaps hurting his darling, G.W. Bush, and the Republican Party in 2004, than how

these comments and comments like them hurt LGBT people. Apparently, Guerriero does not mind being in a party that is essentially ruled by tenaciously homophobic right wingers, as long as they properly keep a little quiet about it so as not to ward off any voters and thereby endanger the growing conservative Republican and homophobic stranglehold on the White House, Congress, and the Supreme Court.

Arthur Arroyo
San Francisco

Attacking the message

The B.A.R. suggested in an April 24 editorial that Senator Rick Santorum "slipped up" on April 21 when he made comments comparing gay rights to incest. Millions of words are wasted annually trying to convince homophobic senators like Santorum and Helms, other conservative Republicans, and groups such as the Christian Coalition that homosexuals should have equal rights. As in medicine, treatment will never be truly effective unless a correct diagnosis is made. The question should not be "why did Senator Santorum make his statements?" but rather, "why is God so homophobic?"

I do not refer here to all gods. Some deities are quite accepting of all human beings regardless of how nature or environment crafted them. The God of Jews, Christians, and Muslims is represented as homophobic even though He created the universe and apparently created homosexuality.

Given some of the preposterous notions and beliefs of these three great religions, it is unfair to ask Senator Santorum and like-minded religious zealots to alter their message. To do so, they must either navigate through their own hypocrisy (not an unusual position for politicians) or pretend that they don't believe what their Bible says.

The gay community should question why God's homophobic injunctions still persist. Could it be that this is just an ancient myth that has not been rejected? Similar to the idea that God created Eve from Adam's rib; could it be that God, with not much to do for eternity, created homosexual men and women so that they can be ridiculed on earth and sent to hell later for His amusement? Or perhaps we should apply scientific principals to the beliefs of those who espouse the teachings of this God and ask, "Do you have any evidence whatsoever?"

The United States of America is rapidly becoming the most powerful empire in the history of the world. This success is based entirely on our technological superiority and has nothing to do with our philosophies, ethics, or beliefs. All of our major institutions: science, law, and medicine are based on evidence. Only religion says that, with no evidence to support your belief, you are able to worship imaginary creatures, believe in absurd premises and hate some of your fellow men.

Perhaps instead of attacking the messenger, such as Senator Santorum, we should attack the message: "Why does God hate gay people?"

Marcus A. Conant, M.D.
San Francisco

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Where are our allies?

by Paula Martinac

Progressive gay people, myself included, have long argued that homophobia does not occur in isolation from other types of oppression. We've advocated forming alliances with other social movements across barriers like race, class, and gender. But what happens if we put ourselves on the line for others, then find we're facing our own firestorms pretty much alone? The offensive public remarks of U.S. Senator Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) last year about segregation and more recently of U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania) about homosexuality underline this conundrum.

In December, when Lott waxed nostalgic about the 1948 presidential campaign of former U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond (R-South Carolina), who ran on a segregationist platform, a number of gay groups rushed to denounce the remarks as racially insensitive. Notable among the protesters were the moderate Human Rights Campaign and the conservative Log Cabin Republicans — two accommodationist groups not known for making connections with other movements, and often taken to task by the gay left for failing to do so.

For HRC and LCR to repudiate Lott's remarks was a political gamble. After all, Lott, who believes homosexuality is an addiction, was unlikely to be influenced by what any gay leaders had to say. At the same time, their statements against the powerful senator could have backfired and been used against them by other Republicans had Lott not been pressured to resign his leadership post.

Now Santorum, the third-ranking Republican senator, has shown his particular brand of bigotry — in his recent interview with the Associated Press, he grouped homosexuality with "man on child" and "man on dog" sexual relations and maintained that gay people have no rights to engage in private consensual sex. Once again, gay groups, along with a handful of gay-supportive politicians from both parties and a host of newspaper editorial departments, have spoken out against



the remarks.

But the silence of nongay civil rights groups on Santorum is disappointing. The headlines in the media tell a lonely story — "Santorum Angers Gay Rights Groups" and "Gay Groups Urge GOP to Remove Santorum" — as if gay people are the only ones to take offense. Some media analysts have quickly picked up on the fact that the gay community — unlike the black community, when Lott made his blunder — does not have the political clout to oust Santorum from leadership.

Lesbian Notions

What we needed in this case was for other civil rights groups, particularly black organizations and leaders, to stand with us. Only Philadelphia Mayor John Street (D) made a public statement, calling Santorum's comments "offensive to a lot of people." Street, who has himself gotten flak for making homophobic comments in the past, added that the senator "ought to find a way to clean it up."

Where is presidential candidate Al Sharpton? Where is Jesse Jackson? The only other prominent African American I've seen quoted so far on the Santorum brouhaha is David Almasi, the director of Project 21, a group of right-wing black leaders. Almasi maintains that equating Santorum's comments with Lott's is just "petty politics," because homosexuality "is something that people are choosing to do" and not a basis for civil rights protections.

Why all this silence? First, there is still significant homophobia in black communities — especially among clergy members, who continue to misread "gay" as "white" and "elite." Tragically, the antigay rhetoric of some ministers — who wield a lot of influence in their

communities — has led to the suppression of information about how HIV/AIDS is spread. Today, more than 50 percent of new HIV infections are among African Americans, who comprise only about 12 percent of the U.S. population.

But the silence from black leaders on Santorum is partly our own doing. The largest gay organizations have been dominated by middle-class white directors and boards, who set agendas that may not have much to do with the needs of nonwhite queers. And, with the exception of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, none of our national groups have made a sustained effort at antiracist work or at forging alliances with black communities. Simply stepping forward to chastise Lott, then, would never have been enough to make up for years of acting as if "gay" does, indeed, imply "white."

The national gay movement, however, is doing work that could help make coalition building more reciprocal. Recently, HRC received a grant to fund an outreach program to students at historically black colleges; the aims include training young black gay leaders and broadening education efforts on HIV/AIDS among blacks. In launching this program, HRC is backing up its condemnation of Lott's comments with concrete attempts to change the leadership and goals of the gay movement. And if we continue to pursue these kinds of genuine efforts, we may not be so alone against the Santorums of the future. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at PMcolumn@aol.com.

Celebrating cannabis



Larry Edmund, right, the "420 cheerleader," joins several of his friends at San Francisco's fourth annual "Cannabis Freedom Day" Saturday, May 3. The event featured speakers, dancing, and music to support the continued enforcement of Proposition 215 and ending arrests and imprisonment for marijuana usage.

POLITICS

Wartime president turns into a candidate

by Wayne Friday

George W. Bush, flush from his victory over Iraq, made one of the political photo ops of the century last week by landing on a moving aircraft carrier off the coast of California complete in an Air Force flight suit. It was an image that surely will be shown repeatedly until November 2004.

Quite a feat, and I have to hand it to political adviser **Karl Rove** for pulling off the in-your-face show of the year. The event looked pretty impressive even if it did come from a man whose entire military career consisted of being a member of the Texas National Guard.

Bush, noticeably bypassing heavily Democratic San Francisco, then quickly went to Santa Clara to tout a tax cut that he's sure is a cure-all for the nation's economic woes, but in actuality is one that even the GOP-controlled Senate refuses to pass.

Not to worry, however, as Bush pointed out: "Remember, we've overcome a recession" (we have? Most would agree we're still deeply into one). Bush suggests that the blame for the sluggish economy and rising unemployment is the fault of outside forces and national security emergencies, not the fault of his own administration that continues to insist on a \$725 billion tax cut plan that House Republicans have reduced to \$550 billion, and the GOP-controlled Senate is determined to reduce further to \$350 billion. Bush, of course, never bothers to mention that the tax cut he proposes would go mostly to the 2 percent of the country's taxpayers who are in the highest income bracket.

Unfortunately, for Bush, the U.S. Labor Department inadvertently rained on the Bush victory swing through California last Friday by announcing that there had been a jump in the April unemployment rate for the third straight month, bringing it to the highest since the first term of **Bill Clinton**. Nationwide, 2.7 million jobs have been lost since March 2001, when the recession began only two weeks after Bush took office.

When Bush admitted that "the economy is not growing fast enough" he found no argument from the Democrats. House Minority Leader Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco) responded by calling on Bush to extend federal unemployment benefits in response to his own Labor Department's claims of the growing jobless rate, calling her idea "a fast way for us to inject purchasing power into the nation's economy." Other Democrats, also responding to the growing unemployment, said that there continues to be very serious questions in the Bush leadership on economic security issues.

As for Bush's whirlwind visit to California last week (it was his sixth since taking the White House), his speech in the economic-troubled Silicon Valley left many of the area leaders less than satisfied. Representative **Zoe Lofgren** (D-San Jose) pointed out that Silicon Valley's unemployment rate is, at 8.4 percent, among



Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), left, receives a plaque of appreciation for Assembly passage of AB196 from Briana McRee, who's involved with the Ark of Refuge's transgender outreach activities. It was part of a May 4 worship service completely presented by transgender people at the San Francisco church.

the nation's highest, and said of Bush's comments: "What he said here today was so completely disconnected with what has to happen to get the economy up and running; I'm hearing from Ph.D.s who cannot even get an interview.

This is not a recession; it's a depression and I think the president is totally oblivious to that."

Lofgren added that Bush's proposed tax plan for the nation's rich would only add to the country's growing deficit, calling

it "a plan to borrow our way into oblivion - this is not a job growth plan, this is a plan that will eventually bankrupt our country."

Clearly, last week's high-profile visit to the sailors aboard the carrier Abraham Lincoln and the follow-up stop at United Defense Industries kicked off what Bush, Rove, and the national GOP hope will be a successful re-election campaign.

I should note that the placard of choice carried by the several hundred protesters greeting Bush in Santa Clara appeared to be one that read: "Let's bomb Texas next; they've got oil!"

Politics and people

Hoping to elect a gay or lesbian mayor of a second major American city (Providence, Rhode Island already has an openly gay elected mayor), the Washington-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund co-endorsed San Francisco mayoral candidates **Susan Leal** and **Tom Ammiano** last week, though there was reportedly a lot more sentiment among the Victory Fund members for Leal than for Ammiano.

Meanwhile, one of my favorite people, former Ambassador **James Hormel**, has come out big-time for Leal for mayor (as has Democratic San Francisco Assemblyman **Mark Leno**).

Speaking first to a packed crowd before the influential Plan C group last week, District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** spent his opening time complaining about the asbestos, etc., and insisting that "San Francisco needs a new Hall of Justice." Quickly picking up the cue, challengers **Bill Fazio** and **Kamala Harris** both responded

by agreeing that a new Hall of Justice would be nice, but claimed that "What San Francisco really needs is a new district attorney."

Incidentally, Supervisors **Sophie Maxwell**, **Aaron Peskin**, and **Fiona Ma** have endorsed Kamala Harris for D.A. (as has Assemblyman Mark Leno).

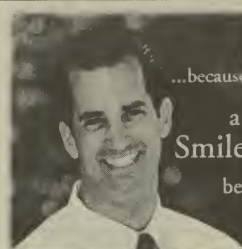
To those who called or e-mailed that I was crazy to report recently that Supervisor **Tony Hall** is going to run for mayor, just watch and wait folks.

And one of the good guys at City Hall is newly-elected Supervisor **Bevan Dufty** who is already getting high marks as a guy who "delivers" for his District 8 constituents at City Hall. In fact, Dufty, officials from the Department of Public Works, and community leaders will host a "Castro Renaissance" meeting Monday, May 12 to discuss cleaning up the neighborhood. The public is invited to attend; the meeting takes place from 4-6 p.m. at the Harvey Milk Academy library, 4235 19th Street.

New York Senator **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (D) is due in California next month to appear at a **Barbara Boxer** re-election fundraiser; Clinton, one of the real stars in the Democratic Party, is in big demand at Demo Party fundraisers across the country and ensures a successful turnout wherever she appears.

And how about that political dust-up that the homophobic Pennsylvania Senator **Rick Santorum** got himself into last week in Washington with a group of parents of gay and lesbians. The *New York Times* reported that the parents were in the nation's capital to lobby lawmakers on issues like hate crimes and safe schools for gay youth. While Santorum's spokeswoman termed the heated exchange between the senator and the parents as being "very professional and polite" the parents said that when a Santorum aide interrupted the session to tell the senator he had to leave, he left in a hurry, tripping over a chair. "He couldn't get out of there fast enough," said **Allen Kirschner** of Philadelphia, who with his wife, had arranged the meeting after repeated requests, only to be told that Santorum could spare them 10 minutes.

Then we learn about yet another purveyor of virtues, former Education Secretary **William Bennett**, one of the Republican



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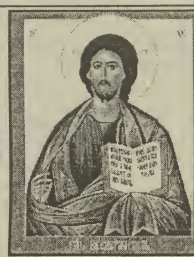
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LGBT center

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building, and a budget of around \$3 million, according to former Executive Director Brian Cheu.

Neil Albrecht, a board member of the National Association of LGBT Community Centers and the director of Milwaukee's center, said that typical budgets for community centers around the country are less than \$250,000, and most have achieved even that size by hosting programs which, in San Francisco, have been provided by

other organizations that have been around for many years prior to the center's opening.

The San Francisco center hoped to support itself in part as a landlord, by renting out the building's 17 meeting rooms that take up most of the space in the building. At the height of the dot-com boom that idea looked viable. By many accounts, and according to board co-chair Randi Gerson, the center has been very successful providing meeting space. But the center has lots of underutilized rooms, which some potential clients are now calling too expensive, and that are largely empty

during daytime hours.

While many centers around the country rent meeting rooms, most rely on programming as their main generators of income—either directly or by producing projects that are subsidized by grant revenue.

The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, for example, founded in 1971 (tied for oldest with Albany, New York), is also the nation's largest, and grew big providing services around the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Center staff credit 55 percent of the \$32 million annual budget to the very large clinic and pharmacy.

San Diego's center, according to development director Shawn Ingram, is mainly an HIV service provider. Forty-one percent of that center's budget comes from those programs. Sixty-one percent of the money comes from program and grant funding.

The San Diego center just reopened its main building after extensive renovations, and expects to lease much of the space to nonprofits on a long-term basis.

Seattle opened a 3,000 square foot center—about one-13th the size of San Francisco's—in June 2002 with a budget of \$174,000 for a gay community that director Jaci Oseguera estimates is as large as 300,000 people. It houses seven nonprofits.

According to Robert Woodworth, director of institutional services for New York City's center, the 29,000 square foot building started small in 1983. They bought the building off of the City of New York's surplus property list and paid only 10 percent down on the \$1.5 million sale price. The city held the mortgage and, according to Woodworth, the center was "paying less than the interest" for several years.

He said that the center's success was "cumulative not instantaneous." While now he said, 20 years later, they have nearly 100 percent occupancy during the nighttime hours, when they started they had only "five or six things a night."

Money woes not unique

The money woes facing San Francisco's center are not unique. Many community centers have had financial problems in the past year, and many have cut staff.

"We're broke," quipped Seattle's Oseguera.

The L.A. center cut about 60 employees a year ago and closed one facility.

Even San Francisco's Women's Building, which is about to celebrate its 25th anniversary and provides services similar to the LGBT center, is not doing as well as staff would like. According to development director Susan King, the building is "doing okay, but we're treading water."

But similar to many LGBT community centers around the

country, the Women's Building leases much of its space as offices for nonprofit organizations. Two of the building's four floors are occupied by nine nonprofit groups that lease long-term space. That relationship gives the Women's Building some reliable baseline income.

The LGBT center has resisted renting out long-term space, except in a warren of 12 tiny offices on the building's fourth floor. The center has acted as an incubator for the nonprofits that have offices there, helping them apply for grant funding.

The business of renting out long-term space to other nonprofits, which Albrecht called "the preferred model" for a community center, is one way centers can be successful.

The San Francisco center opened with a mission to form collaborations with existing groups. But only one such collaboration, with Our Family Coalition and a consortium of other family groups, has gotten specific funding. Shortly after getting the money, OFC asked for more space in the building. They were told no, said former director Charlie Spiegel, and moved the main office to the Flood Building downtown. OFC maintains its office in the center, but uses it for domestic partnership ceremonies by appointment.

Anne Tamar-Mattis, the program director who engineered the grant, left in the most recent round of layoffs and resignations.

The center's board has been forced to cut staff and immediately trim the budget, which co-chair Scott Wiener hopes to bring in as low as \$1.3 million.

Wiener will also help lead a strategic planning process to evaluate the center's mission, but only after the board hires a new executive director to replace Cheu, who left on April 25 after less than a year on the job.

Gerson said that the board won't start the San Francisco center's planning process until July.

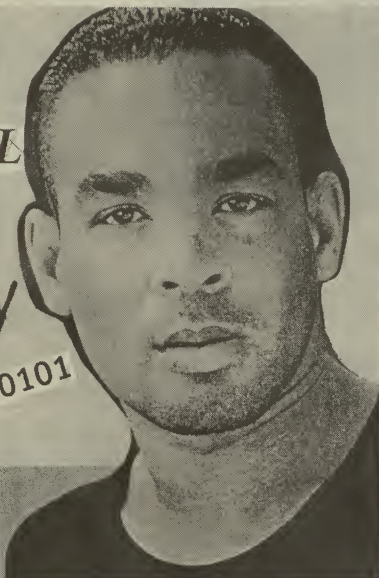
"We're not there yet," she said, but added that she thinks the center's board has "bought the time to do a thorough strategic planning process by carefully managing our cash flow." ▼

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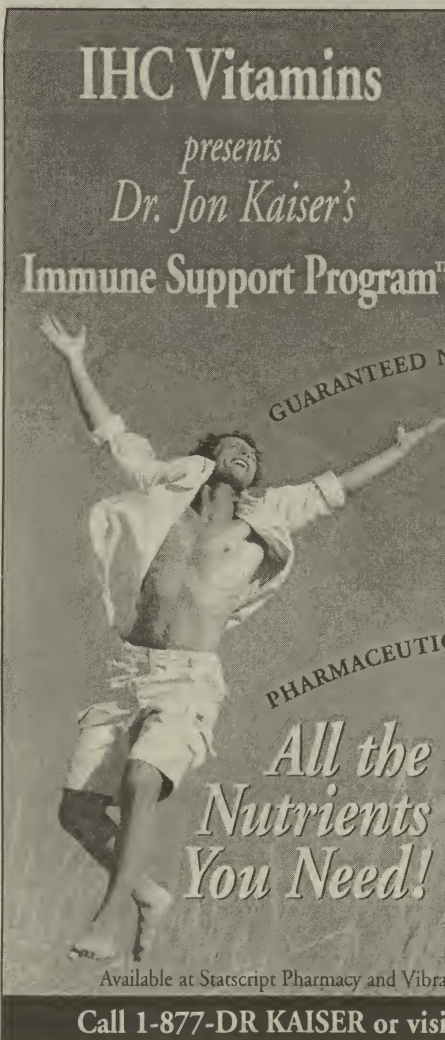
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Grand marshals

◀ page 1

tion for all the work that we do in the community," Person-Harris told the B.A.R. about her grand marshal honor. "It's something I never thought would happen to me. I'm pretty jazzed."

One more marshal

The Pride board voted on Tuesday night, May 6, to add community activist Hank Wilson to the list of parade grand marshals. Wilson was the second-fa-

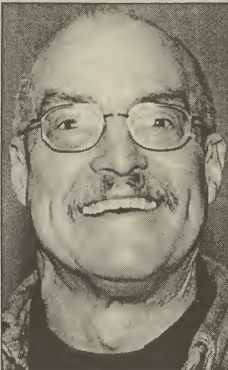
vorite during public balloting, earning 281 votes, just five fewer than Marlene.

Wilson, 55, a long-term AIDS survivor, is a founder of the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, where he works as a volunteer coordinator. He has been a tireless activist for decades, fighting for warning labels on poppers [see *Guest Opinion* on page 6]; spearheading the 1999 write-in campaign of mayoral candidate Tom Ammann; founding the Gay Democratic Club (now the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club); and protesting and advocating for healthcare, gay teachers, LGBT youth, and anti-violence.

Additional honorees

As organization grand marshal, the general public selected Marriage Equality California, a founding member of the statewide California Freedom to Marry Coalition, which is committed to winning the freedom to marry for same-sex couples. Of the 1,747 votes cast for this honor, MECA secured 563.

And the winner of the "Pink Brick" award, annually bestowed upon the most hateful and deserving of worldwide figures, is President George Bush, who earned an impressive 701 votes of 985 cast, a whopping 71 percent landslide for his resumé. ▼



Grand marshal Hank Wilson

Jane Philomena Cleland

HISTORY LESSON

Who were the 'Ladies of Llangollen'?

by Liz Highleyman

May 1778 (225 years ago this month): Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby journey to Llangollen, Wales.

Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby were two aristocratic Irish women who eloped in 1778 and lived together in the Welsh countryside for more than 50 years. While their relationship scandalized their families and subjected them to gossip in their day, it has come to be regarded as a model of romantic friendship between women.

Butler (1739-1829), the daughter of a noble family, was born in Dublin and educated at a convent in France. She was fascinated with the study of literature and languages, and showed little interest in marriage. Ponsonby (1755-1831) was born to a wealthy Dublin family; she lost both her parents when she was a child and came under the care of her father's relatives. Butler, then aged 29, met 13-year-old Ponsonby at a boarding school Ponsonby attended in Kilkenny, Ireland. Over the next 10 years the two developed an intense friendship, which continued through correspondence and visits after Ponsonby left the school.

In 1778, defying social convention, Butler and Ponsonby disguised themselves in men's clothing and ran away together. After this first elopement, their disapproving families managed to bring them back, but the women resisted all attempts to keep them apart and escaped again — this time for good. Their families eventually resigned themselves to the relationship: one relative of Ponsonby's remarked, "though it has an appearance of imprudence, it is I am sure void of serious impropriety" as there were "no gentlemen concerned."

After traveling around England and Wales — chronicled in Ponsonby's journal *Account of a Journey in Wales perform'd in May*

1778 by *Two Fugitive Ladies* — Butler and Ponsonby settled in the small Welsh hamlet of Llangollen, in a cottage they named Plas Newydd ("New Place"). Admirers of the French Romantic philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, they strove to attain his ideal of humanity in harmony with nature. Living on small stipends from their families, the ladies often read to each other, studying literature, foreign languages, politics, and the arts. They also devoted themselves to working in their garden and decorating their home in the Gothic style with stained glass and wooden carvings.

Despite their unorthodox relationship, the eccentric ladies came to be both well-loved by their townsfolk and well-regarded by English society. Their home became a cultural center, and they corresponded with and received visits from many prominent figures of the day, including authors Sir Walter Scott and Robert Southey, statesman Edmund Burke, novelist Lady Caroline Lamb, and naturalist Charles Darwin. The Duke of Wellington (who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo) was a friend and frequent visitor, and William Wordsworth and Anna Seward celebrated the ladies' idyllic pastoral lifestyle in their poetry.

Were Butler and Ponsonby lesbians? Neither woman ever married, and there has been considerable debate — in their own time and since — about whether their relationship was sexual. Anne Lister (herself a woman-loving woman) wrote after visiting the ladies in Llangollen, "I cannot help thinking that surely it was not Platonic," and French author Colette speculated about the nature of their relationship in her book *The Pure and the Impure*. But some later feminists maintained that the ladies were motivated not by erotic passion, but by a desire to live as independent women. Butler and Ponsonby certainly shared a devoted friendship. They slept in the same bed, often wore men's clothes, and reportedly named one

of their dogs Sappho. In her journals, Butler referred to Ponsonby as "my beloved."

During the pre-Victorian era — when middle- and upper-class women often entered loveless marriages to fulfill family and social obligations — intimate female friendships were widely accepted as an additional emotional outlet. But Butler and Ponsonby were among the first to boldly defy family pressure and societal expectations, living together openly as a couple.

Butler died in June 1829, followed by Ponsonby two years later. They are buried together at St. Collen Church in Llangollen. Today, Plas Newydd is a museum, where some of the ladies' diaries and possessions are on display. ▼

Suggested reading

Curren, Anna M. 2001. *Love, Above the Reach of Time: Two Stories of the Ladies of Llangollen* (Ladye-Press USA).

Faderman, Lillian. 1981. *Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love between Women from the Renaissance to the Present* (William Morrow).

Mavor, Elizabeth. 1971. *The Ladies of Llangollen: A Study in Romantic Friendship* (Penguin).

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Mayoral candidates build momentum

by Joe Dignan

San Francisco Supervisor and mayoral candidate Gavin Newsom marched through the Castro on Saturday, May 3 with about 25 sign-toting volunteers and staff on a merchant walk, stopping in at about 15 shops and restaurants up and down Castro Street.

"How's business?" went his inevitable first question at each stop, as he ducked in from the busy sidewalk. The answers varied, but most of the shop owners tried to put a good face on the economic downturn.

"Better than last month," said All American Boy president Tim Oviatt.

"Business good?" Newsom asked US Bank manager Russell Hill.

"Definitely," replied Hill.

"I hope I won't need to come in here and take out a loan," quipped a nervous Newsom.

While that's not likely, what with Newsom's much reported ties to the Getty family and their

fortune, most business owners, when asked by Newsom, said that business is up slightly, and not nearly as bad as January, in the post-Christmas slump, or February, when, as former Merchants of Upper Market and Castro President Patrick Batt, a shopkeeper himself, pointed out, "Christmas bills come due."

Newsom's intention during the Saturday walk was to bring his campaign to the heart of San Francisco's gay community. Newsom said that he has a long record of supporting gay and lesbian causes in San Francisco, something he said he started doing long before he started running for mayor. Bay Positives, Continuum, Project Open Hand, Project Inform, New Leaf, Shanti, and the LGBT Community Center are all nonprofits that Newsom said he has supported.

He voted for Mark Leno's landmark transgender health benefit ordinance in 2001. He voted to allow the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to close Castro Street for their 20th anniversary celebration a few years ago.



Mayoral candidate Gavin Newsom, center, walks in the Castro with merchant Patrick Batt, right, and EVPA President Gustavo Serina, left.

"I'm proud of my advocacy for the gay community," he said.

Newsom argues that gay and lesbian people should support him because of what he believes in, not what he is, and that issues should transcend identity in politics.

"I want a mayor who has substantive ideas, it doesn't matter if

they're gay or straight," said one supporter.

Newsom vowed to "get things done," but has polarized community members along economic lines with his Care Not Cash initiative.

Two homeless people on the street heckled Newsom. "Newsom is a pig in a suit," said one, Chris

Zinger.

But after hearing Zinger's outburst, Charles O'Rourke said, "I'm supporting Newsom. I'm tired of these ones who want everything for nothing. My partner and I had to work for everything we have."

Newsom said he has held 217 house parties, 50 of those in the Castro.

Susan Leal

Much of mayoral candidate Susan Leal's campaign so far has revolved around those momentum-building get-togethers, arranged by supporters to raise money and meet potential voters.

Leal, who is city treasurer, said that it's important for gay and lesbian people to support a gay or lesbian candidate.

"If elected, I will be the first gay or lesbian mayor of a major city in the U.S.," she said. "I'm running as the most qualified candidate, but it would be a matter of pride not only to San Francisco, but to the gay and lesbian community in this country."

On Monday, May 5 she spent an hour and a half in the rec room of a new Potrero Hill development. The party, hosted by non-profit management consultant John Newsome, drew about 40 of Newsome's friends. Leal answered questions about herself.

"It's my qualifications that differentiate me from other candidates," she said. "I'm a lawyer, an economist, a businesswoman, and I've actually run a city department — unlike the other candidates."

About what she would do as mayor, she said, "Clean it up, run it right, and get the local economy moving again. Bring accountability and integrity back to city government."

And about homelessness: "It's not going to be quick."

She said she would look outside the city, if necessary, to hire department heads looking beyond what she called "people you can trust to do what you want" and "friends of the unions."

She said that she is a moderate candidate. "I'm not from the left. I'm not from the right. I'm not easily pigeonholed."

And she asked for money. She said, "The only thing that's going to stop me is not having the money to get my message out."

She trumpeted her two most recent endorsements, one from the Women's Campaign Fund, shared with rival candidate Angela Alioto, and, on April 26, from the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which she shared with supervisor and rival Tom Ammiano.

Tom Ammiano

As a supervisor, Ammiano is introducing legislation that will require San Francisco to automatically save money when city revenue is strong — for use during economic downturns. His "rainy day reserve" would be funded immediately with a symbolic \$56 million from the current cash reserve. It would require that half of future extraordinary growth revenues be put in the fund, to be spent when city revenues decline by comparison to the prior year. He defined "extraordinary growth" as any time revenues increase more than 5 percent compared to the prior year.

"This measure will bring common sense to city budget planning and represents a major reform to city fiscal practices. The measure will require that we save money in good years so we have a cushion

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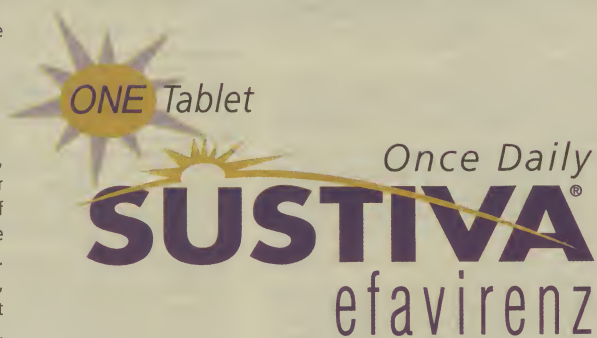
Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.

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SOMA bars

◀ page 1

"We didn't observe any violations at that particular point in time," said Gomez. "The crew did inform the manager that there were some complaints they may want to take care of. We put them on notice that if there are such actions occurring then they better curtail those. We will be continuing to investigate it."

Scott Peterson, the manager of Powerhouse, declined to speak specifically about the complaints and the ABC investigation into his bar. But he did state that his bar has always posted signs stating that sex is not allowed inside the bar.

"I shouldn't be quoted about that situation," Peterson said. "I don't believe they [ABC] are working with the bars in South of Market. They never really have worked with bars; they are a policing organization."

After learning about the complaint against his bar, My Place's manager said he has been working with the ABC to resolve the issues and concerns the investigators may have. The manager, who goes by the name Cip, has hired more staff to act as "sex and drug police" to ensure patrons abide by the rules required by the ABC.

"If there are people who come in here and think they can get naked and get creepy they are not going to last very long. But there are people who think it is their God-given right to go into any bar South of Market and think they can do whatever they want to do," he said. "Contrary to popular belief, it is not like people were fucking at the bar."

The actions of the ABC have gained the attention of members of the city's newly formed Entertainment Commission, which will begin convening meetings later

this summer. The matter could be addressed by the commission, which will not only oversee permitting issues but other concerns impacting the city's nightlife.

"Here we have for the first time the clash of community standards of acceptable behavior and the larger government that regulates those being out of sync," said Terrance Alan, the gay owner of the sex club Club 220 and an appointed member of the Entertainment Commission. "It will be the Entertainment Commission's job to try to broker peace treaties when those two entities are not in sync. The Entertainment Commission will not be able to supersede the ABC's decision, but we can seek to bring ways of how to focus our attention on to public safety rather than behavioral censorship. That is where we need to stay focused."

Alan added that the Entertainment Commission could work with the gay community to petition the state to revise its rules regulating bars.

"It may be that if the community wants a place like My Place and Powerhouse to push the envelope of the ABC laws, we may need to look at changing those laws," he said.

Open secret

It is an open secret in the gay community that both bars have a reputation as places to find sex. As local gay magazine QSF described My Place's bathroom, "Going to the restroom can be either a frightening or an erotic experience."

Gay Web sites aimed at tourists and visitors coming to San Francisco all report about both bars' infamous reputations. According to the Web site Planetsoma.com, either bar is a good spot for finding sex.

"But if you want bars where you can actually complete your mission [of finding sex] inside the

bar, you're looking either for My Place [Folsom and 8th] or the Powerhouse [Folsom and 9th]," states the Web site. "My Place sort of reinvented backroom sex in the early 1990s and often features pretty good music too. It can be a rather entertaining place just to hang out even if you're not looking to be naughty, which is a good thing as most of those being naughty have tended to be rather old and unpleasant the past few years. For a slightly younger and cuter backroom scene, albeit with annoying music and too many Castro clones in the mix, the otherwise-forgettable Powerhouse is the best option."

Since the 1970s, when the bar was called the Ramrod, My Place has been labeled a seedy and dirty bar. Cip said the bar is a different place today and is unfairly pegged as a defacto sex club.

"It is unfair that people think that people only come into this bar only for sex. We have worked really hard to brighten the place up to be a fun party place," he said. "This is a really cruise bar and I am not denying that. But I don't think people use this place as a Blow Buddies substitute."

As for the complaint about drug use at the bar, Cip said it is due to many of the patrons being HIV-positive and smoking their medicinal marijuana inside the bar. He said his staff has stepped up enforcement of that issue.

"Now we have sex and drug police who walk around. They are not identified as a staff member," he said. "They do go around and make sure if they see anybody pull out a bag of pot they tell them they can't do that here."

In addition to that, Cip said his staff is more vigilant about not allowing more than one person at a time to use the private bathroom and has been asking patrons to leave if they are found violating the rules.

While he said the new policies have not affected his weekend business, Cip said it has cut into his daytime revenue.

"We lost 25 percent of our daytime business," he said. "Some of our customers were upset, yeah, but they understand we are not the bad guys here."

At the same time state investigators have put the Powerhouse on notice, the bar has been working in conjunction with health officials to promote awareness among its patrons of the city's rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases. Last Friday night the Powerhouse hosted an event sponsored by the health department aimed at getting men tested for syphilis.

"If the headlines are about syphilis rates going up, up, up then it is time to go where it is being spread about," Peterson said of his allowing health workers to do STD testing at his bar. "I have always tried to work very hard with all the agencies to help. It is our job as bars in this city to get the word out there."

As word of the investigations at the bars has spread through the community, some have speculated that Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, the health department's director of STD control, is behind the complaints. Although Gomez would not disclose who has filed the complaints, he did state the complaints came from two different people.

Klausner emphatically denied that he is the anonymous person making the complaints.

"Some folks are suspicious that I may have been involved. At the health department, we try to reduce sex on premises, which is true. But it is not my style to be covert or anonymous," Klausner said. "I made a commitment to my staff and the venues that we would work together to prevent the ABC from having to come in."

Klausner said he has been concerned about both My Place and Powerhouse for some time because men who are testing positive for syphilis continually report either having sex on site or meeting sex partners at those two bars.

"Really, these two are the only ones that come up on our weekly syphilis reports," said Klausner. "People mention having sex on site. It may only be oral sex but oral sex can lead to syphilis."

Over the course of the last year, Klausner has visited both of the bars being investigated to work with the staff and try to implement working collaborations with them. After he visited My Place last fall, the bar painted "no sex" messages on the walls of its bathrooms.

Klausner likened the approach as similar to the one he has tried to take with the city's sex clubs.

"At Powerhouse and My Place, we were trying to work with these places for the last year," Klausner added. "We are excited to partner with these places to promote sexual health awareness. We are going to continue to work with these sites to reduce sex on site."

According to ABC records, this is the third complaint the department has received about lewd acts occurring at My Place since 1999. Gomez said that in 1999 his investigators did not find anything to corroborate the allegations made in the complaint.

A second complaint alleging once again that sex was occurring on site at My Place was logged in 2000. However, due to pending litigation against the ABC, Gomez said the department did not take any action on the complaint.

In April 2003 the U.S. Supreme Court denied a petition by a sports bar in Southern California to overturn an ABC decision to take administrative action against it for lewd activities.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)

[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA." Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects. Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. **Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat development in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA. Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

RONLY

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see Can children take SUSTIVA?).

Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant.** Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanol® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Vered® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafegot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Fortovase® (zalcitabine)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)
- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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House approves global AIDS funding

by Liz Highleyman

In a bipartisan move, the U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly Thursday, May 1 to approve a global AIDS funding bill, with most of the money going to Africa and the Caribbean. The legislation, sponsored by Henry Hyde (R-Illinois) and Tom Lantos (D-California), advances an HIV/AIDS relief plan proposed by President Bush in his January State of the Union address.

"Today's action is an important step toward providing critically needed treatment and care for millions of people suffering from AIDS, and proven prevention programs for millions more who are at risk," Bush said last Thursday.

The vote was 375-41.

The bill, HR1298, authorizes \$15 billion over the next five years; 55 percent of the aid will be for treatment, 20 percent for prevention, 15 percent for palliative care, and 10 percent for the care of orphans. For fiscal year 2004, \$3 billion is allocated, with up to \$1 billion of that amount going toward the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

HR1298 employs the Ugandan "ABC" prevention model of abstinence, being faithful, and condom use. In a difficult compromise, legislators narrowly passed an

amendment sponsored by Representative Joseph Pitts (R-Pennsylvania) that allocates one-third of the prevention money to programs that promote abstinence only. Bush supported the amendment, but earlier had indicated that he would sign the bill without it. Other amendments added to the bill cap spending on Global Fund administrative and salary expenses, allow funding for faith-based groups that oppose non-abstinence-based prevention strategies, and promote education about gender equality.

Several legislators and advo-

cates criticized the amended bill for placing ideology over public health. "We should not use federal funds to tell people in Uganda to not use condoms because they are morally wrong," said Lantos.

Said Holly Burkhalter of Physicians for Human Rights, "By diverting AIDS money to ineffective programs, money will be wasted, and more importantly, lives will be lost."

However, the bill does not include proposed wording that would have barred funding for any organization that directly or indirectly provides counseling about or performs abortions, a provision simi-

lar to the so-called Mexico City policy applied to U.S. funding for international population programs. The bill allows funding for family planning and other groups as long as abortion-related activities are financed and run separately.

Bush had urged legislators to move quickly, and the Senate is expected to consider a similar AIDS relief bill later this month. Lawmakers must also include enough money in next year's appropriations bill to cover the new legislation, something the proposed fiscal year 2004 budget currently does not do. ▼

Hate crimes bill reintroduced in Senate

by Bob Roehr

Federal hate crimes legislation that expands coverage to gays and lesbians was reintroduced in the U.S. Senate Thursday, May 1 by lead sponsors Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), Gordon Smith (R-Oregon), and Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania). The measure is officially known as the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (S966).

"Hate crimes are a violation of everything our country stands for. Like all acts of terrorism, they have an impact far greater than that suffered by the individual victims and their families. They send the poisonous message that some Americans deserve to be attacked

solely because of who they are," Kennedy said at a news conference to introduce the bill.

Smith commented, "We need to add the category of sexual orientation because it is so critical that we say to our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters that we care about you, we include you, we want to defend you. And we want to say that there is no family value to be served in opposing hate crime legislation."

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign, said, "It is time for this country to take a stand against those that would use violence to silence the voices or spirit of any American out of prejudice. Meaningful antihate crime legislation in this country is long overdue."

A similar measure passed the Senate in July 1999 as an amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill, and in June 2000 as an amendment to a Department of Defense authorization bill.

The recent roadblock has been in the House, where the Republican leadership has not allowed a vote. The leadership has successfully fought to strip out amendments added by the Senate when the two chambers met in conference to work out differences in the versions of the main bills.

Stachelberg maintains that they have the votes to pass the measure on the floor of the House, but the Republican leadership will not allow that because it is playing to a base of support

among social conservatives. There is little to indicate that has changed, or that the fate of the bill will be any different during this session of Congress.

HRC also announced that it is teaming with the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition in seeking statements of nondiscrimination by members of Congress in hiring for their own offices. HRC has long sought such statements of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation. Now it is adding the terms gender identity and gender expression to the statement. The more inclusive terminology covers issues affecting the trans communities and other people who may not fit neatly into traditional gender roles.

The broader language already is included within the antidiscrimination employment policies of many large companies. More than 300 members of Congress have signed such statements in past sessions and Stachelberg believes that number will grow in this session. ▼

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Candidates

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for economic downturns," said Ammiano.

The measure is the work of both Ammiano and Controller Ed Harrington.

"This measure will smooth out the peaks and valleys of city revenue and would have helped avoid the degree of the budget problem the city is currently experiencing," said Harrington.

Oddly this puts Ammiano, the progressive, in the role of fiscal conservative, and in possible opposition to the city's unions - who have, until recently, been his strong supporters.

Angela Alioto

Rival candidate and ex-supervisor Alioto got the endorsement of the Service Employees International Union, which represents many of the city's workers. The vote of the five local presidents was split, with three for Alioto and two for Ammiano.

But the standings in the city's mayoral race have not changed much since the beginning of the year. A poll commissioned by a pro-business group called SF SOS in early March put Newsom at 35 percent, Ammiano at 21 percent, Alioto at 14 percent and Leal at 6 percent. Ex-Police Chief Tony Ribera, who is running for mayor and Supervisor Tony Hall, who has not declared, each got 2 percent. Twenty percent of those polled said they are still undecided. ▼

OBITUARIES

Dr. Robert J. Marko (Bob)



Dr. Robert J. Marko (Bob), DDS passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at Davies Medical Center after a long battle with AIDS. He was surrounded by his life partner and best friend

John L. Westaway III, and his beloved friends Bill Langley, Dave Groves, Renea Breitenstein and Ann Telhorst as well as his spiritual guides the Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon and the Rev. Joe McMurray. Bob was 56.

Bob was born and raised in Binghamton, NY. He was the son of the late Helen and George J. Marko. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law Richard and Barbara Marko of Binghamton, NY; his sister and brother-in-law Mary Anne and James Savicky of Johnson City, NY, and nieces Melissa J. Amy A., and Julianne M. Savicky whom he dearly loved and who adored him. He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. Bob leaves behind an amazingly large and caring family of friends who loved him and supported him during his last battle with AIDS.

The first in his family to go to col-

lege, he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Buffalo and his graduate degree from Georgetown University. Bob was a dentist in Binghamton and the Washington D.C. area before retiring to San Francisco seven years ago. At the time, his very proud mother asked her son if he would still be called "doctor" and he assured her he would. In San Francisco, Bob pursued his avocation of Life Coach among many other activities. He was a dedicated volunteer and supervisor at the California AIDS Hotline of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and an active member of Metropolitan Community Church where he tirelessly worked on many projects including the Circles of Hope fundraising event. Bob made time to play, especially with his dog Oscar. He loved dancing, music (symphony season ticketholder), food, and books (book group founder and leader). But most of all he loved spending time and sharing activities with all his friends and with John, his partner of six years.

Proud of his Russian heritage, Bob was laid to rest on May 6 at St. Michael's Cemetery in Binghamton, NY after a Russian Orthodox service. A celebration of Bob's life will be held at a later date in San Francisco. Bob lives on in all those whose lives he so wonderfully touched.

In lieu of flowers, John and Bob's family ask that you make a lasting trib-

ute to the life of Robert J. Marko with your contribution in his name to the Metropolitan Community church of San Francisco Building Fund, 150 Eureka St., San Francisco, CA 94114, or to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 995 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Presentation: The health benefits of pets

by Zak Szymanski

Pets bring more than warmth and fuzziness to a person's life; research has shown that there are medical benefits from the human-animal relationship. And while the majority of research in this field has concentrated on a pet's ability to reduce his guardian's blood pressure and cholesterol levels, other studies have shown reduced frequency of human headaches, and even Alzheimer's symptoms, according to the local nonprofit Pets Are Wonderful Support.

The organization, which provides pet care to people with life-threatening illnesses, will offer a community presentation, "The Health Benefits of Animal Companionship," on Thursday, May 15, at 7 p.m. The presentation will feature the latest information about the positive impacts pets have on human health, and will be led by Julia Bowen, a veterinary student working as an extern at PAWS.

"As a future veterinarian, I feel that the human-animal bond is very important," said Bowen. "but in order to enable those in need to preserve this bond, it is necessary

to inform the community."

Bowen expects doctors, social workers, and health officials to attend the discussion, as well as others who could benefit from the information. Once armed with the data, she said, it will be easier to convince providers to make referrals for companion animals, for instance, or to convince pet-phobic landlords to abide by service animal laws.

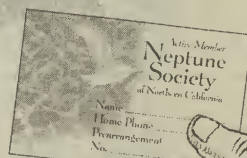
Next Thursday's presentation takes place at the new PAWS office at 1121 Mission Street, between 7th and 8th streets. For more information, call (415) 241-1464 or 241-1469. ▼

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Serving class

by Jim Provenzano

"The fact was that tennis – he said, giving careful emphatic judgment – was an art as well as a sport, and like all the arts took special talent, a certain 'natural class,' in fact, without it you were just no good. You'd be hopeless for the rest of your life."

– Giorgio Bassini,
The Garden of the Finzi-Continis

A stern analysis of athletic excellence in difficult times, Bassini's novel is set in the 1930s, when fascists, having banned Jews from playing in their clubs, even harass them for holding private tennis matches in their own back yard.

These days, gay people can play tennis almost anywhere without much harassment (unless they're playing Goran Ivanisevic, or Jelena Dokic's father in the stands. The two are among the few in the elegant sport to mouth off homophobically.).

And in baseball, we have the John Rocker clone. Todd Jones, a relief pitcher for the Colorado Rockies, who told the *Denver Post*, "I wouldn't want a gay guy being around me."

"It's got nothing to do with me being scared," Jones ranted. "That's the problem: All these people say he's got all these rights. Yeah, he's got rights or whatever, but he shouldn't walk around proud. It's like he's rubbing it in our face. 'See me, hear me roar.' We're not trying to be close-minded, but then again, why be confrontational when you don't really have to be?"

Uh, to confront morons like you, Todd?

The slackness of the Rockies in confirming Jones's stupidity via apologetic statements may be due to rerun fatigue. It's like watching the second cast of *Dukes of Hazzard*; cuter, but dumber.

Net work

Fortunately, the world of tennis has more than a few out players. Locally, regionally, and globally, thousands more play out and proud, with a lot more class than the previously mentioned "athletes."

The San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Tennis Federation sent almost 20 racquetballs to Sydney's Gay Games VI last fall, and they brought home quite a few medals.

The GLTF encourages the sport of tennis through organized competitive and social events for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities throughout the Bay Area. The non-profit organization was founded in 1979 and has an active membership of 250-plus tennis enthusiasts.

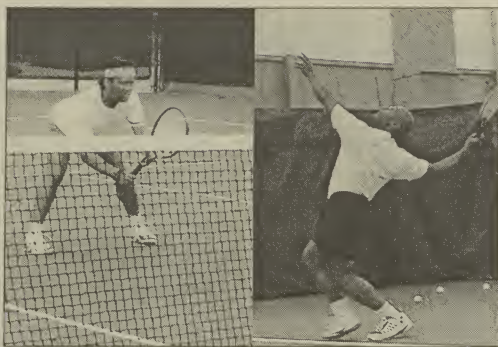
They'll be hosting the United States Gay Open May 22-26 at courts around San Francisco.

Some of the tennis players who competed and medaled in Sydney will also be playing this month at the USGO.

Family affair

George Torrellas competed in Sydney in B level in singles, and A doubles, paired with Kevin Ware.

He and Ware have been doubles partners for about a year. Torrellas has been playing since childhood.



Bobby Docena, left, and Kevin Ware, two Games medalists who will compete at the USGO.

Raised in Southern California's Walnut Diamond Bar area, near Anaheim, he played in high school and during college at Cal State Long Beach.

"I wasn't out to my team at all then," he said, "or to any of the players, but I definitely was 'living the lifestyle.'" He stopped playing for almost eight years, saying he was "kind of burnt out" on tennis.

After he moved to San Francisco seven years ago, the 36-year-old Torrellas said, "It was time to get back. It was something that I really missed and that I love. Once I did, I found my old form again. I definitely feel great about where I'm at now."

He should. With 175 men in his draw, last year's Games got him a bronze in B division men's category.

Along with Americans, British, Australian, German, and Dutch players predominated, but he said that San Francisco had a large contingent.

"We have a strong tennis community, probably one of the largest represented."

Bay Area players had a GLTF coordinator who kept track of who was going.

In Sydney, Torrellas recalls that "there was so much friendship, very team-oriented," and that he enjoyed a lot of support, "Especially being in that medal round knowing they were cheering me

on was inspiring."

His playing continues to be a family affair, since his father taught him. Family and friends stateside were keeping track of his success on the Web site.

Torrellas also was sponsored by two companies, Yonex and Adidas. He's also in the U.S. Tennis Association, where he was ranked #7 in California's B division.

He'll be competing with Ware in doubles, but might play A level in singles.

"You have to work very hard to win at that level." He's keeping up with his renewed accomplishments.

"When you come back with a medal, the expectation's even higher. I have more expectations for myself. It's definitely a sport for a lifetime."

Ready to ware

Dance fans may recognize Ware from his acclaimed work performing with the Oberlin Dance Collective for eight years, from 1991-1999. He toured all over the world with the modern dance company.

He also created his own choreography, and is thinking about a stage comeback in a work by Robert Moses.

Originally from Cleveland, Ware is now a webmaster and graphic designer whose current work includes the design and

maintenance of the tennis team's site. To help the team grow, he added online membership payments and a searchable database.

"We made a concerted effort to get more members, and we accomplished our goal," Ware said.

Ware easily converted his terpsichorean dexterity to the tennis courts, and competed in the A men's category in Sydney. He said he should have been in B grade, but it was full.

"I paid dearly for it in the first round," he said.

While upper level competition took place in Olympic Park, competition was held in courts all over the city. Matches for B and C players were held on a set of courts very far from Olympic Park, and far from excellent in quality.

"They were turf with sand sprinkled on it," said Ware. "It was like playing on a dirty carpet."

Nevertheless, Ware and his doubles partner Torrellas won the bronze in men's B singles.

Asked about the competition, Ware said, "When you play up you hope to be beaten by somebody good. But this guy lobbed me like crazy."

In doubles, his racquet broke. "That one game, I held on. And we won."

Ware hopes to play A grade for Gay Games VII in Montreal. And he'll be sure to bring a spare racquet.

Volley top

Bobby Docena won mixed doubles in A level tennis in 1982, at the first Games, and 20 years later, he won the men's A doubles gold with teammate Henry Kim.

The 38-year-old San Francisco native started playing sports at Everett Middle School and McAtteer High School.

"I played in track and field" and when he saw his friends playing tennis at Dolores Park, "I never returned. I'm fast, so I thought, 'I can get those balls.'"

Docena was out in school, and suffered none of the expected problems.

next page ►

Tennis events and medalists from Gay Games VI

A Grade Doubles Men
Gold: Bobbi Docena - Henry Kim

A Grade Mixed Doubles
Gold: Patrick Miller

Novice Doubles Men
Gold: Ed Aganon

Open Men's Doubles
Silver: Kerry Mitchell

B Grade Singles Men
Silver: Adam Berman

A Grade Singles Men
Bronze: Dewey Tong

35+ Mixed Doubles
Bronze: Diane Slowiejko - Pete Torres

65+ Men's Singles
Bronze: Thad Trela

A Grade Doubles Men
Bronze: Bijan Ahmadzadeh - Patrick Miller

B Grade Singles Men
Bronze: George Torrellas

C Grade Doubles Men
Bronze: Ken Poole - Keith Wall

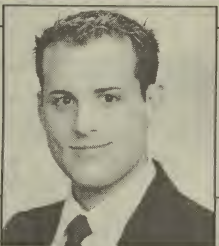
Bronze: Paul Sportelli

35+ Men's Doubles
Bronze: Darryl Hubbard with Paul Ortolano, Orlando, Fla.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SF Pride announces main stage line-up

by Zak Szymanski

Two of the Grammy-Award winning Pointer Sisters, showstopper Jennifer Holliday, legendary New York rockers Betty, and Billboard chart toppers Klymaxx are just a few of the headliners to be featured at San Francisco's LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration's main stage on Sunday, June 29. Other headliners include the dance-hit sensation

Funky Green Dogs and out Argentinean blues rocker Celeste Carballo.

"We have an incredible line-up of performers this year - award winning musicians, local favorites, and groundbreaking artists," said Pride President Joey Cain. "Through their music they have given our diverse communities enjoyment, inspiration, hope, and fabulous music to dance to."

Local and regional talent on the main stage includes the 1950s

drag band the Woodyz; the tranny rocker girl band Pepperspray; out gay rapper Deadlee; Empress Snatch; vocalist LZ Phoenix; Big Lou's Polka Casserole; and the gospel choir Transcendence. Additionally, the winner of the "Pride Idol" competition will perform.

The main stage fun begins at noon and continues well after the parade, into the early evening hours. A complete schedule is available at www.sfpide.org/stages/main/sunday.htm. ▼

SOMA bars

◀ page 14

The lawsuit stemmed from allegations that dancers at Angels Sports Bar in Corona, Riverside County, were touching and fondling their breasts during dances. ABC investigators observed such behavior and sought a 30-day liquor license suspension against the bar.

The bar appealed, arguing the ABC had no right to prohibit the dancers' behavior, claiming such action violated their freedom of expression. The ABC Appeals Board agreed and overturned the department's decision.

In turn, the department took the case before the Fourth District Court of Appeal which ruled that the state does have the power to impose regulations directed at undesirable "secondary effects" of certain types of entertainment and the entertainment venue offering them.

After both the California Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case, ABC acting director Jerry R. Jolly hailed the decision as a victory for his department and its policies restricting sexual acts and lewd behavior in bars.

"As the department contended all along, the restrictions placed upon erotic entertainment and sexually explicit conduct in businesses licensed to sell alcoholic beverages are reasonably directed to the effects such activities may have on people who are consuming alcohol and to the protection of the general public," Jolly said in a statement released April 1.

Going after gay clubs?

Since the court handed down its decision, ABC investigators

across the state have begun acting upon complaints of lewd acts at bars. In San Francisco, investigators have not only opened investigations against gay bars but straight establishments as well. As in the case of the sports bar, Gomez said his office has received complaints about dancers in several North Beach clubs touching and fondling their breasts and buttocks.

"We are getting complaints involving alternative lifestyles as well as big nightclubs in the North Beach area," said Gomez. "We will follow up with those complaints also."

Coming on top of increased fire inspections of bars in the SOMA area, which resulted in the Lone Star Saloon limiting its capacity to its allowable 49 person limit and canceling its beer benefits, the ABC investigations have fueled speculation that the government is going after gay and leather bars. The increased attention from regulators is a cause for concern, said Alan, who is chair of the San Francisco Late Night Coalition.

"We have to make sure the actions by the ABC fall within the law and they are not evidence of some sort of witch-hunt; we have no evidence to deny that or support that," said Alan. "The larger issue is that of community standards. You are talking about My Place and Powerhouse, two very old school bars South of Market that have operated basically without problems for years and now are facing actions by the ABC based on one anonymous complaint."

Alan said he takes issue with the fact these investigations are being launched not because of a series of incidents but due to one complaint.

"Does that mean that every ABC licensed facility in San Fran-

cisco needs to now be concerned if they have one angry patron and that person makes an anonymous complaint, there is going to be an investigation that threatens their license?" asked Alan. "That is frightening, costly, and intimidating to the licensee."

Gomez defended the department's policies and said the ABC is obligated to act on complaints it receives.

"If we don't follow up on a complaint they may call someone above us," he said.

With only 10 investigators to oversee more than 5,000 licensed establishments in both San Francisco and San Mateo counties, Gomez said the ABC staff only responds when it receives complaints.

Once an investigation is begun, a team of undercover inspectors makes unannounced visits to the bars in question. The investigations could last up to three months.

If the complaints are substantiated by the investigators, the ABC may pursue a suspension of the bar's liquor license. If drugs are found being sold or used in a bar, Gomez said criminal charges may be brought against the establishment.

"We make three additional visits, if no violations are observed we then close it out," said Gomez.

Alan said even more alarming about the ABC investigations is the impact they could be having on the economic vitality of the city's nightlife. With tourism down and many locals now unemployed, Alan said the city should be helping these businesses stay open.

"A greater concern is to make sure we don't intimidate patrons of nightlife from going out," he said. ▼

"We won last year, and we hope to win again in L.A.," he said.

Host with the most

GLTF President Steven Brown started in the federation six years ago, but had his first tennis action 24 years ago, when he began with lessons in San Luis Obispo.

The expected 250-300 players may keep him busy Memorial Day weekend, but he hopes to play, along with organizing the big annual event.

"Generally, the largest percentage of competitors are local," said Brown. "But we invite people from around the world. We do get players from London, Japan, and Australia. Our players also travel around the world to promote the league."

Memorial Day weekend's USGO events will include a lot of tennis, but also social fun, too.

Monday's finals in Golden

plus we were playing the Sydney team, so it was pretty exciting."

Kim possible

Kim will be playing singles and doubles at the Memorial Day weekend USGO.

Kim started playing tennis as a kid with his father in Los Angeles. He played for his high school team and later took courses, but the GLTF was the first league in which played a more active role.

"Thrilled and elated" to have won with Docena, he's definitely looking forward to Montreal.

Kim has competed in the USGO and at local tournaments, including the Cal Cup, a tri-city tournament, similar to the Davis Cup, but on a larger scale.

With players from San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles, Kim said it includes the top 24 players in each club competing in a team format.

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

"I had a lover in high school," he said. "I was lucky, so I had my sports, too. I didn't get into the experience of guys messing with you when you're gay."

Playing at the Olympic Park facility in Sydney still had a prestige for the self-described "volley top. I don't play like a nelly thing," Docena joked. "My game is aggressive and I'm not a baseline bottom!"

Out of a 128 draw, Docena lasted through quarterfinals.

A draw of 64 teams in doubles

led to six hard-fought matches, leading up to the final medal round, where he and Henry Kim played the Sydney team.

"We were actually down 1-6, 3-

E. Bay students

◀ page 3

the safety and well-being of our young people. As a result, we have established and maintained numerous programs aimed at keeping kids in our community safe."

The statement is dated October 22, 2002, and it mentions a past teen think tank on bullying and teasing, and plans for a climate survey of its own. Sexual orientation - or any minority status, for that matter - is not mentioned as a specific factor in campus harassment.

What Floyd and QYAT would like to see, she said, is something akin to what her group helped to secure in Contra Costa's El Cerrito school district: an LGBT task force specifically set up to educate students about how to file complaints, staffed with an ally familiar with recognizing abuse and confidentiality maintaining

around parental notification.

"This is a model program, in the same county," said Floyd. "San Ramon Valley should follow this example."

The Center for Human Development is asking concerned community members to urge San Ramon Valley to take active steps toward ensuring students' safety, including the creation of a task force to implement AB537, because "what you do in a board room," according to Floyd, "is not going to protect students in the hallways."

Contact information for board members and the superintendent can be found at www.srvusd.k12.ca.us.

Meanwhile, the Center for Human Development will host a free "Combating Homophobia" conference on Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at El Cerrito High School for all area youth; call (925) 687-8844, ext. 310 for more information. ▼

Blacks address

◀ page 5

Asians were infected. While on the surface the results look promising, "the problem with the numbers is a couple extra infections in a group makes a huge difference," said Buchbinder.

But enlisting more blacks as trial participants has been challenging for researchers. Many within the African American community remember how government researchers manipulated black men during the Tuskegee experiments on syphilis, and moving beyond that distrust of research has been difficult. According to the Food and Drug Administration, which reviewed data on every drug it approved between 1995 to 1999, the number of black trial participants dropped from a high of 12 percent in 1995 to only

6 percent by 1999.

"It is vital black people get involved so black people have the information about what is going on," said Steve Wakefield, associate director for community education and relations with the HIV Vaccines Trial Network.

Robertson said the meeting helped to open a dialogue on a topic previously not given much attention by the black community.

"Given that, I think you may see more people interested. If not in participating in trials, I think more people in the activist community will be more likely to participate in the advisory boards," he said after the meeting. "Trials have been low on the list of priorities because there are so many other things occurring. But given the significance of VaxGen and how things can play out in the media, we need to reprioritize that and get on advisory boards." ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

Party's leading antigay spokesmen and best-selling authors. It seems that Bennett, the Christian right-winger whose books and speeches (at \$50,000 per appearance) have made him rich and famous, likes the gambling tables of Atlantic City. *Newsweek* and the *Washington Monthly* recently revealed that Bennett has dropped as much as \$8 million in the past few years at the casinos. Hey, it doesn't make him a sinner, I suppose, as Bennett brushes it off by saying "I don't play the 'milk money'; I don't put my family at risk, and I don't owe anything." It's yet another example of the Christian right advocating the "do as I say, not as I do" philosophy. On Monday, Bennett said he was giving up gambling.

In the local newspaper scene, even *San Francisco Bay Guardian* publisher **Bruce Bruggmann's** enemies likely found last week's cover story on the *San Francisco Examiner's* Fang family interesting reading. I mean, **James and Ted**

Gate Park, near Sharon Meadow, and off Kennedy Boulevard, should be exciting for tennis fans of all levels of interest.

Brown noted that they're also the first public courts in the country, which recently reached landmark status because several hall of fame players who competed there.

For information on the upcoming tournament, visit www.gltf.org or call (415) 282-1114.

Read my other stuff at www.sportscomplex.org. ▼

Fang are both good friends of mine, but damn, the Bruggmann sheet sure came up with some pretty juicy stuff.

In Nebraska, the American Civil Liberties Union has filed a federal suit challenging a section of the state Constitution that bans not only same-sex marriage but also civil unions and domestic partnerships. The lawsuit says that Article I, Section 29, added in 2000, is the only one of its kind in the country and discriminates against gays by preventing them from lobbying state and local agencies for healthcare benefits and, for example, the right to visit partners in the hospital.

Representative Nancy Pelosi, the first woman to lead a party caucus in Congress, continues to get high marks on Capitol Hill and elsewhere. Even conservative Democrats who opposed her promotion to minority leader now say they are impressed by the San Francisco liberal's performance. Pelosi, 63, took over her party's leadership in the House of Representatives in January when Representative **Richard Gephardt** (D-Missouri) stepped down to run for president. As the war in Iraq winds down, Pelosi says it is time for the Democratic Party to focus the country's attention on the economic issues she thinks will reverberate in the next elections. "People know there is a better way and they are listening," she said in a subtle appraisal of the Bush administration. They don't come any smarter in Washington than Nancy Pelosi, and I hope she becomes House majority leader after next year's general elections.

And how was your week? ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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May 15, 2003 Inspections During Construction - What is Required and When?
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VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

BIOSCIENCES TASK FORCE

The Biosciences Task Force consists of a total of 22 members, 16 of whom shall be voting members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Task Force is comprised of the following: 1 member from a business Association; 1 member with expertise in the bioscience industry; 1 member from a bioscience company; 1 member from an urban planning association; 1 member from an educational institution with expertise in the biosciences and the bioscience industry; 1 member from an organized labor entity that represents employees of bioscience companies or research institutions; 1 member from a private real estate firm that represents companies seeking bioscience space in the Bay Area; 1 member from an organization that specializes in job training and placement; 5 members from neighborhood organizations with one (1) each from the Mission, South of Market, Potrero Hill/Dogpatch, Bayview Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley/Little Hollywood neighborhoods; 3 members from neighborhood organizations within the City and County of San Francisco and outside of the neighborhoods listed above.

This Task Force shall develop recommended policies for consideration by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on land use controls for biosciences industries in areas outside of the Mission Bay, Hunters Point Shipyard, and Hunters Point Redevelopment Areas.

Compensation: None.

STATEMENT FILE 0266088-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Paul Ave Hand Car Wash, 49 Paul Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Scott D. Roberts. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/14/2003.

APR. 17, 24, MAY 1, 8, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266048-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Law And Mediation Solutions. 83 Scotia Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joel K. Rubinstein. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/11/2003.

APR. 17, 24, MAY 1, 8, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0265914-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Island Treasures. 555 John Muir Dr. #B412 San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Rodolfo G. Soriano. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 8, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/08/2003.

APR. 17, 24, MAY 1, 8, 2003

~GAY PRIDE 2003~

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STATEMENT FILE 0266149-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Unplugged Internet. Ca. 1375 De Haro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joey Kollin, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2003.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03540683

In the Matter of the Application of Jerome Anthony Hardin. For change of Name. The application of Jerome Anthony Hardin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jerome Anthony Hardin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jerome Anthony Cuffey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of June at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266144-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Metzler Brothers. 675 Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph B. Metzler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 16, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2003.

APR. 24, MAY 1, 8, 15, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266437-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Two Sister's Restaurant. 308-5th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Masard Mochida and Katie Luusun Choe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/28/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-540720

In the Matter of the Application of Sanjosh Tyree Lal For change of Name. The application of Sanjosh Tyree Lal for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sanjosh Tyree Lal has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Yisrael ben Avraham. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 3rd day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266401-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: It's Market. 1561 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Alex Kim. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/25/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0266379-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Employment Law Paralegal. 855 Sacramento Street, Suite 318, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Don L. Whitney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266353-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: City In Bloom. 957 Hayes Street Suite #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Louis Fitch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266473-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Def Wes Records. 735 Gough Street Apt. #C, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Earl Metts III. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 29, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266356-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Museum Of Vision. 655 Beach Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a Nonprofit corporation (501(c)3 sub-fund of Minnesota nonprofit corp.) signed Brad A. Wong, Executive Director. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266365-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: B.B. Gear-SF. 3207 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ghazwa Danielle Mawlaoui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 24, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/24/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 2003

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STATEMENT FILE 0266498-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Henare Systems. 479 Silver Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry Charles Mensch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2003.

MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266562-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: JJ Tour. 296 Flood Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Fung, Chun Kui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266461-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: J & K Transportation Trucking. 2682 San Jose Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kong, Sen F. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 28, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/28/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 247024

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Julie's Deli Restaurant. Located at 4689 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Minh Tang. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: February 27, 2001.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266589-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Caylen's Catering. 2646 45th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bren Caylen Boyd. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 20, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/02/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

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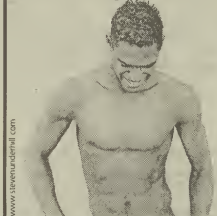


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J. Malkovich presents J. Bardem
The 'Latin Clark Gable' makes a charming
leading man in 'The Dancer Upstairs.'
page 29

'Forbidden' fruit
The living museum
of Charles Gatewood.
page 39



Adams, Adam premieres
John Adams' music at SFS,
Julia Adam's dance at SFB.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 19 • 8 May 2003



DeLarious!

Comic Lea DeLaria returns to SF

by Robert Julian

Over seven years have passed since Lea DeLaria last graced a San Francisco stage (Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint), but it's unlikely her fans have forgotten. After all, for years she was the stand-up comic who hosted Gay and Lesbian Comedy Night at the old Valencia Rose. She released two comedy CDs, *Bull Dyke in a China Shop* and *Box Lunch*, then a funny thing happened. She moved to New York and became a genuine Broadway star in musical comedies. Delovely, delirious, delectable DeLaria put herself on the show-biz map in one of the most unlikely scenarios since Fanny Brice got herself hired to headline the Ziegfeld Follies. Now DeLaria returns to her old stomping grounds for a one-week gig at The Plush Room, beginning May 13. Speaking from her home in Manhattan, DeLaria sounds like the girliest of girls, one still amused and astounded by her own journey.

Robert Julian: Lea DeLaria, Broadway baby. Honestly, I didn't see it coming. Did you?

Lea DeLaria: Well, I'm not sure I saw it coming. Everybody knew I could sing, it was always a major part of my act. But you don't really think saying, "I'm a big dyke" on TV is going to get you the lead in a major Broadway musical.

And now you're returning to San Francisco and all the little people who did absolutely nothing to make you who you are today. What do you have in store for them?

There are no little people in San Francisco. I'm going to be doing tunes off *Play it Cool*, my first album on Warner Brothers records. It's Broadway tunes that we do as jazz. There will be funny things, too. But it will be more of a jazz concert than a cabaret show. There's lots of music — more music than comedy — but comedy fans won't be disappointed.

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Exclusive: Bye-bye, pecs!

Matt Dillon talks about wearing a shirt

by Brandon Judell

There are many reasons to see actor Matt Dillon's directorial debut, *City of Ghosts*, which he also co-wrote. There are the fine performances from a cast including Dillon, James Caan, and Gerard Depardieu. There's an enticing Graham Greene-esque plot. The scenery, mainly shot in Cambodia, is lush and frenzied. Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now" is sung in Khmer over the end-credits. Then again, there's Dillon, who takes his shirt off once.

What a face! What a pair of pecs! So why only once? Does the 39-year-old star of *My Bodyguard* (1980), *The Outsiders* (1983) and *Drugstore Cowboy* (1989) still fear revealing his flesh? After all, he turned down the male lead in *Blue Lagoon* because of the nudity required.

Dillon, attired in sort of a straight man's Hawaiian shirt covered with totem figures, laughs aloud in our Regency Hotel suite in Manhattan. "The *Blue Lagoon*! You remember that, huh? I certainly don't feel I shied away from being a physical presence in this film. But you know, there is something. I remember even when I worked with Cameron Crowe on *Singles* (1992) that I was talking about how this guy in some Seattle band was playing it smart. He wasn't taking his shirt off and doing the shirtless-rock-guy-on-stage thing. That would have been an easy thing to do.

"With *City of Ghosts*, I never thought about it one way or the other, whether I was keeping my integrity intact by keeping my shirt on. In fact, I did a couple of scenes where my shirt was off, but they just got cut from the film be-

page 31 ►



Roland Nevo

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Sneak peek at the 'Creek'

Have a hankering for Jack? Get in line.

by Roberto Friedman

The fledgling network WB's signature series *Dawson's Creek* will end its six-year run on Wednesday, May 14, with a two-hour finale that takes place five years in the future. Written by

series creator Kevin Williamson, the final episode reveals that Dawson (the adorable and bankable James Van Der Beek) has achieved his dream of Hollywood success as the creator/producer of a television series called — wait for it — *The Creek*!

The old gang is reunited when Joey (Katie Holmes), Pacey (Joshua Jackson) and Jen (Michelle Williams) return to Capeside for a wedding, along with Jack (hot brunette Kerr Smith — drool here!) and Andie (Meredith

Monroe). Long-hidden passions are revealed, along with a heart-breaking secret that one of the group has been trying to hide.

Brought closer than ever to her two childhood sweethearts by the impending tragedy, Joey finally makes a choice between Dawson and Pacey. But inquiring queer minds want to know: Does Jack finally get to play tongue hockey with the captain of the school's football team? We sure hope so. (5/14, 8 p.m. on WB20.)

On the town

Out There varied our usual social behavior, which we call LOL (lurk, observe, lay in wait), at the Closing Night party for the 46th International Film Festival last week. At venerable old North Beach nightclub Bimbo's 365 Club, OT staked out a high-visibility table in the VIP Room, and let the film luminaries, directors and writers come to us. It worked; most of the time, we could listen to the Cuban orchestra in peace.

An actor whom we had just seen up there on the Castro's silver screen in first-time-film-maker Mark Dece- na's closing-night feature *Dopamine* sat down next to us and began chatting gregariously, until a fearsome personage crossed into his line of sight. "It's (SF Chron editor Phil Bronstein!)" he ejaculated, and lurched away. The cast and crew were in high spirits, celebrating the fact that the film, shot in SF's Mission District, had closed the deal with a distributor.

Chatter in the system: Could it be true that that prominent butch lesbian in the SF film community is transitioning FTM? S/he was overheard in a Castro café last week talking about "the surgery" in the past tense.

Cuddly Kushner

Congrats to playwright Tony Kushner and *Entertainment Weekly* magazine editor Mark Harris, who became the very first gay couple to be featured in *The New York Times*' "Vows" column, which describes the big-deal NYC betrothal of the week. The newlyweds do look alike; romantically, their eyeglasses touched under the wedding canopy; and invited guests included Larry Kramer, Mike Nichols, Diane Sawyer, and George C. Wolfe, who commented, "When Tony said, 'I do,' it was the first time in his entire life he answered a question with two words."



Ewan McGregor: biggest star?

Huggy bear

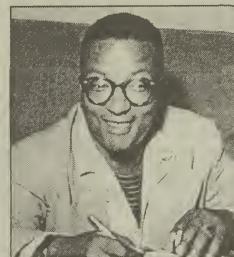
Detailswatch: The May issue (and you thought we no longer cared!) describes covergod Ewan McGregor as looking the very image of the Brit exile in America, geared out in his "bulge-hugging blue jeans and tattered black work-boots [italics ours]." We guess this is not too different from the purplish prose which the popular press uses to describe busy starlets in halter tops. But the McGregor piece is somewhat excessively teased on the magazine's cover with the leading question, "Who's the Biggest Star in Hollywood? (In the Pants, Not the Paycheck.)"

Hey, that's real classy material — in the pants. We ask in return, "Who exactly is the intended audience here?"

Then we turn to the issue's fashion layout, which focuses, literally and figuratively, on the crotches of its young male models, and we know the answer to our question. *Details* is the "new lad" mag for "questioning youth!" That's the new hot demographic, NLQY. Don't say we didn't tell you first.

Lush life

The accompanying photo of great gay composer and pianist Billy Strayhorn is from Jazz:



Billy Strayhorn in '50s photo.

Vintage Photographs from the 1950s, a group show at Gregory Lind Gallery, 49 Geary, through May 31. Photos from the golden age of the American jazz scene capture such eternal stars as Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Miles Davis, by photographers Hugh Bell, Jerry Dantzig and Steve Schapiro. Info: (415) 296-9661.

Meanwhile, as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month on PBS this month, Louise Lo's *The Floating World: Masami Teraoka and His Art* profiles one of the country's most renowned Asian American artists, who adapts the art forms of both East and West to comment on contemporary issues. Strangely, no Bay Area affiliate appears to have picked up *Floating World*, although Sacramento's KVIE will air it on Sunday, May 25 at 2 p.m.

But we can see Teraoka's work in the flesh, as it were. His show *US Inquisition* remains up at Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary, through May 24. In the vivid world of the artist's pictorial imagination, clones cavort with geishas, and world crises in the public realm are reflected by under-world orgies among the carnal dergy.

Floating World screens in Clark's DVD/video project room, along with Masami Teraoka: *The Evolution of the US Inquisition*, by Kerry Owyung. Info: (415) 399-1439.



Olivier Martinez and Helen Mirren

Roman eyes

Showtime has had the audacious idea to remake *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, the 1961 film starring the young and impossibly beautiful Warren Beatty as a gigolo in postwar Italy. That movie was based, in turn, on great gay genius Tennessee Williams' novella of the same name. For cable, the beefalicious French actor Olivier Martinez plays the bought boy Paolo, and acting icon Helen Mirren plays the widow Stone, originally brought to the screen by the immortal though declining Vivien Leigh.

Williams famously admitted, "Mrs. Stone, c'est moi," though perhaps not in so many words. We'd pay for Martinez' attentions, too, though at BAR wages, we could perhaps afford him for a quarter-hour. But those 15 minutes of flame would be memorable. (Playdates: 5/12, 14 & 28.) ▼

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'Vows' feature couple Mark Harris and Tony Kushner.

THEATRE

Rich Dymmer, Joseph Parks, Rebecca Fisher and Taylor Valentine in Prince Gomolvilas' *Mysterious Skin*.

When Kansas calls

'Mysterious Skin' at New Conservatory

by Richard Dodds

Seeing a play that has been adapted from a novel is often an unsatisfying affair, especially for those who read and appreciated the source material. But with Scott Heim's 1995 novel *Mysterious Skin*, playwright Prince Gomolvilas has beaten the odds by creating a play that stands on its own merits and yet captures the essence of the book.

Mysterious Skin might seem an unlikely candidate for a stage treatment. The challenges include a story told over a decade, principal characters who grow from boys into young men, the multiple locations spreading from rural Kansas to a harsh Manhattan, and, most of all, the graphically described scenes of sex between a Little League coach and his young players.

In his adaptation, making its debut at New Conservatory Theatre Center, Gomolvilas has radically pared the text. Several major characters have been eliminated, along with a number of evocative scenes, and the setting is pinpointed at 1991. Pivotal moments in the past are now revealed through a series of short but sharp flashbacks.

Much of the first half of Go-

molvilas' play is given to the seemingly separate journeys of two 18-year-olds dealing with the ramifications of their childhoods in the same small Kansas town.

The shy and serious Brian has spent the past decade trying to account for his five-hour "disappearance" when he was a boy. Alien abduction is his theory, and it's reinforced by a slightly batty older woman with a scar on her inner thigh to prove her own close encounter.

Neil, on the other hand, is brazenly sexual and supports himself in New York as a part-time hustler. He still recalls with surprising affection the summer he spent as the 8-year-old lover of his Little League coach. When he returns to Kansas to visit his mother at Christmas, sporting a work-related black eye, he finds Brian in his house armed with an aging tent picture and the burning desire for a truth soon revealed in a wrenching and cathartic final scene.

Gomolvilas has wisely chosen not to depict scenes of pedophilia, consensual or otherwise, but still gets across both the horror and elation that it has caused. The script sputters a bit in the first act as necessary exposition is discussed, but soon finds its mo-

mentum. Director Arturo Catricala's production adroitly handles the multi-scene structure, and, more importantly, finds an honest emotional resonance in each of the main characters.

Taylor Valentine and Joseph Parks are effective counterparts, the repressed Brian and the no-limits Neil, and each actor locates an honest sympathy for these very different characters. Rebecca M. Fisher is wonderful as the wound-up Avalyn, the UFO aficionado who has a habit of taking things a step too far. Rich Dymmer does strong work in a number of adult roles, but his nearly risible appearance as teen should be rethought. Megan Towle also handles multiple roles, though in her biggest, as Neil's "fag hag" friend, she comes close to shouting her performance.

For New Conservatory, *Mysterious Skin* is a considerable accomplishment. A good book has become a good play presented in a good production. And that is very good news. ▼

***Mysterious Skin* will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through June 28. Tickets are \$18-\$28. Call 861-8972.**

Under the 'Surface'

Sarah Jones at Berkeley Repertory

by Richard Dodds

Ambiguity may be unpatriotic, but in the theater it isn't necessary that everything be sorted into piles of only good and bad. Theatergoers, if I might get in a plug, usually realize that humans are complicated, but realization sometimes needs a hand on the way to understanding. In *Surface Transit* at Berkeley Rep, the amazing Sarah Jones opens a door.

In little over 90 minutes, and on her own, Jones creates a cast of detailed characters that are not easily forgotten. Young and old, black and white, male and female, these are people molded by a world filled with the jagged edges of, among other things, hate, prejudice, and fear. We all reflect that to some degree, and in her play, Jones suggests there is no clear line beyond which villain is the only proper description.

The New York performer is on a path trod by such high-end solo performers as Anna Devereaux Smith and Lily Tomlin. Jones, who strays enough to find her

Jones as Joey in *Surface Transit*

own place, is on her way up there.

The first character we encounter is an apparently homeless woman rifling through garbage cans. The quirkily wise bag-lady is not a new concept, but Jones brings an honesty to Ms. Lady that refreshes the familiar and, when the character returns at the

end, delivers a prayer that could be felt jostling the audience.

Between Ms. Lady's opening and closing appearances, we meet a casually prejudiced old Jewish lady, a homophobic cop in sensitivity training, a widowed Russian immigrant with a picked-upon biracial daughter, a nervous actress auditioning for a cruel reality show, a hip-hop artist with life questions asked in hip-hop fashion, a college student with an attitude about attitude, and a white supremacist with a horrible memory.

Jones brings stunning nuance to each character, and a sharp ability to react to unseen characters adds to the veracity. But *Surface Transit* feels like more than a showcase for one performer's versatility. And at its heart is a message that goes beyond dogmas of tolerance and inclusion. Hate is the ultimate villain in *Surface Transit*. ▼

***Surface Transit* will run through June 1 on Berkeley Rep's thrust stage. Tickets are \$43-\$54. Call (510) 647-2949.**

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Vigorous beauty

Triple-premiere SF Ballet program delights

by Stephanie von Buchau

Several years ago, dancer-choreographer Julia Adam created *Night*, a ballet so original that it stunned San Francisco Ballet audiences. She commissioned a score from Matthew Pierce, brother of SFB dancer Benjamin Pierce, whom Adam just happened to be dating. When she and Benjamin broke up, her next ballet was the misguided *Angelo*, and more than one person assumed *Night* had been a fortuitous accident.

Not. Now married and mother of a new daughter, Adam turned again to Matthew Pierce for the score to *imaginal disc*, her contribution to the sensational all-world premiere program that ends SFB's 70th anniversary season with a nuclear explosion of talented choreography, good humor and sexy dancing.

An "imaginal disc" is the cell structure that allows a caterpillar to morph into a butterfly, but Adam only applies that narrative in the most abstract way in her 19-minute, four-movement work. What is most important about this ballet, in addition to its visual beauty, is that working with a living composer has kept the choreographer from having to fill music just because it is there. Zero dead-spots in *imaginal disc*.

The first movement, a vigorous, Bachian sewing-machine figure, introduces six men, led by Ruben Martin, who employ their arms and shoulders in a squared-off shape that looks like Egyptian tomb paintings, but could just as easily suggest one of nature's oddball physical manifestations. Upstage, the women are manipulating a large translucent scarf. Both genders are dressed by Christine Darch and Benjamin Pierce in

filmy white — long dresses for the women; poetic shirts over dark pants for the men.

The women become a clump that "cracks the egg," and their dances also have angular qualities. Eventually Martin chooses Leslie Young, one of SFB's stalwart soloists who has never shown me much charisma, but in whom Adam obviously saw a slender, graceful creature about to become a butterfly. At the end of her first pas de deux with Martin, she puts both arms around his neck and he swings her out and around as if she were an ice skater. Then she suddenly lets go, floating in his arms.

It's a beautiful image that gains emotional significance in the final movement when Young has emerged from yet another clump of dancers with filmy "wings" on her forearms. Now, as Martin spins her around and around, he seems to disappear in Lisa J. Pinkham's dramatic pool of light. Young lets go, this time with the "wings" attached, and it looks as if she is floating in a void, the butterfly rising from its damp cocoon. There was an audible gasp in the auditorium before the cheers started.

Class menagerie

If *imaginal disc* was greeted with recognition, awe and love, Alexei Ratmansky's *Le Carnaval des Animaux* created bedlam. I suspect from now on, Helgi Tomasson will have to put it at the end of the program, as it clearly (and unfairly) overshadows anything that follows. Saint-Saens' goofy music, written as a family joke, is mostly known for Fokine's sentimental "Dying Swan" (cello solo played by David Kadarach). But Ratmansky, a Russian dancer-choreographer whom Tomasson met in Denmark, does not have

sentiment on his mind. Without being coarse or vulgar, he just wants to entertain us.

And does he ever. Pierre-Francois Vilanoba is the roaring Lion who terrorizes everyone but a trio of nattering Hens. Lorena Feijoo, in pigtails and tiara, is the lopsided, clumsy Elephant who looks as if she might trip over her own feet, all the while performing prodigiously off-center classical steps. Stephen Legate and Kristin Long dance a pair of amorous Chickens, and we also get Horses, Jellyfish, Kangaroos, Turtles and twittering Birds.

We are laughing, but we are waiting in trepidation for the Swan, Muriel Maffre of course, since she dances the Fokine for SFB. With her shoulders and arms vainly trying to control both trajectory and gravity, the poor creature looks as drunk as she does dying, seeking to maintain dignity as she wobbles around in what can only be described as "eccentric" bourrees. Eventually, she subsides in an hilarious heap of feathers, with the corps grouped sympathetically on the ground around her. A little sad, a lot funny, but never mean.

Unfortunately, *Animaux* made Stanton Welch's *Tu Tu* look less amusing than it might in other



Members of the San Francisco Ballet in Julia Adam's *imaginal disc*.

company. It is the Aussie choreographer's first "classical" ballet for SFB; previously he's made ersatz ethnic works such as *Maninyas*, *Corroboree* and *Taiko*. The new work, to Ravel's noisy G-Major Piano Concerto (Roy Bogas, soloist), explores three pas de deux — allegro, classical and romantic — supported by a large corps.

Holly Hynes' chic, satiny costumes made it almost impossible

to follow the choreography. The women sported classical tutus, but the nearly-naked men wore itchy-bitsy "chase me" shorts. The sight of Gonzalo Garcia (partnering Long) in gold-and-black stripes, or Damian Smith (partnering Yuan Yuan Tan) in red-and-black, fogged my opera glasses so severely I'm just going to have to see it again next season. Somebody has to do the dirty work. ▼

The Adams family

'My Father Knew Charles Ives' premieres

by Philip Campbell

For more than 20 years, Yankee New Englander John Adams has called Berkeley

home, but his universally appealing compositions have actually made him a citizen of the world.

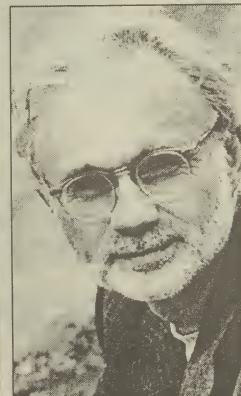
A recent Pulitzer Prize for *On the Transmigration of Souls* recognizes him as, perhaps, the most successful American composer of his generation. Now the world premiere of *My Father Knew Charles Ives* at the San Francisco Symphony returns Adams to the Bay Area very much the conquering hero, and an artist at the peak of his creative powers.

We have come to anticipate his latest compositions the way we look forward to another book by a favorite author or a film from a genius director. The semi-autobiographical nature of the new piece and the striking evolution of his musical language make Adams' SFS commissioned work a major event.

The ink is hardly dry on the score — it was only completed by March 17 and first performed last week. It will nevertheless be included in the repertoire for the orchestra's upcoming European tour. Judging from the recent premiere, *My Father* is already brilliantly set for the road.

Adams' dad didn't really know Charles Ives, but with a charming bit of poetic license, his son says he could have. As mentor and first musical teacher, Adams pere started John on an amazing musical path. The new work celebrates Ives the maverick impressionist and visionary, while recalling treasured childhood memories for the contemporary composer himself.

It is much more than mere pastiche or homage, however. The first two of the three movements clearly borrow methods from Ives, but the closing "The Mountain" is pure Adams, with an amusing nod to Richard Strauss.



Composer John Adams

The opening "Concord" is not the Concord of Ives' famous piano sonata, but further North in New Hampshire, where Adams got his musical chops playing clarinet beside his father for the local mental institution and the Never Second Regimental Band. There is a raucous parade and references to some of the tunes they mangled, including a hilarious piccolo solo. The gorgeous trumpet part, hauntingly realized by Glenn Fischal, recalls Ives' *The Unanswered Question*.

Breeze way

In the central "The Lake," Adams explores new and beautiful territory. Always expert with orchestration, he has created his first nocturne, with an exquisite evocation of a gentle summer night. Big-band music wafts from a distant dance hall, a fog horn sounds from a riverboat, and

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Dancing in the dark

John Malkovich directs Javier Bardem

by Robert Julian

Since the release of *Before Night Falls*, Javier Bardem has put on weight and gotten a bit soft around the middle. But as the star of *The Dancer Upstairs*, Bardem remains irresistibly attractive. Wearing a suit and tie, and sporting a mustache for most of the film, Bardem is a Latin Clark Gable: charming, intelligent, masculine, and cuddly in a way Gable never was. John Malkovich, in his debut as a film director, is lucky to have Bardem as his leading man, because Bardem's physical presence is the only thing that makes the two hours and eight minutes of *The Dancer Upstairs* tolerable.

Set in an unspecified Latin American country (and shot in Ecuador), *The Dancer Upstairs* is a ponderous political non-thriller that suffers from several incurable ills. It is the story of a duty-bound policeman and former lawyer (Bardem) who is assigned to track down a revolutionary intent on overthrowing the government. Although married, Bardem's character is smitten with his daughter's ballet teacher (Laura Morante). As the two draw closer to each other, it becomes clear the policeman's task and his emotions will suffer a head-on collision. The dancer is involved in the impending revolution. Unfortunately, no one will care, because there is no sexual chemistry between Bardem and Morante.

Author/screenwriter Nicholas Shakespeare adapts his own novel for the screen, and the result is terminally verbose. Too much talk and too little action is only part of the problem. Malkovich destroys his chances at credibility by shooting a script full of American slang expressions in South America and asking a cast of Latin actors — who should be speaking Spanish but instead speak thickly accented English — to make the dialogue believable. This is simply not possible. At one point, screenwriter Shakespeare has a Latin actor toss off the rhetorical question, "Who put the pubes on my Coke can?" This colloquial refer-



Javier Bardem and Laura Morante in *The Dancer Upstairs*.

ence to the antediluvian Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill hearings could never come from the mouth of a contemporary Latin American cop. But you'll hear it in *The Dancer Upstairs*. In some instances, the dialogue is completely unintelligible due to poor pronunciation, and no one has more language problems than the adorable Bardem.

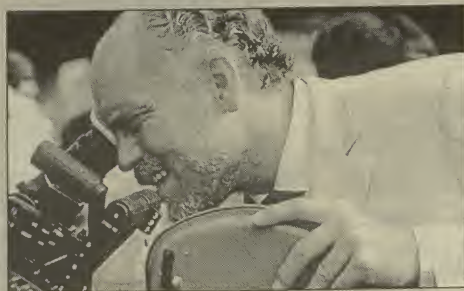
Bringing us down

As a director, Malkovich is like Costa Garvas on downers, producing the kind of leaden pacing that puts an audience to sleep. The actors are competent, but they cannot overcome the fundamental fish-out-of-water handicap of their casting. *The Dancer Upstairs* takes place in a Latin American environment of moral ambiguity where every government is a kleptocracy. Who are the good guys and who are the bad

guys? Under what circumstances does the end justify the means? And when is loyalty inappropriate? These potentially compelling themes get lost in the shuffle of Shakespeare's meandering exposition. And editor Mario Battistel, who might have cut the motion picture into something more compelling, was either not up to the task or did not have the cooperation of the director.

Despite its authentic look, *The Dancer Upstairs* has significant credibility problems. It flops around on the screen, dying valiantly, until the credits roll. I'm sure Malkovich had the best of intentions, and he may yet succeed as a director. But the complex challenges of this initial foray prove to be more than he can handle. ▼

The Dancer Upstairs opens tomorrow.



'Most of the things you read are either really bad or hackneyed.'

Querying John Malkovich

by Robert Julian

John Malkovich is exactly what I expected: intelligent, thoughtful, soft-spoken, and intense. Sitting across from me in his suite at the Ritz-Carlton, Malkovich's personal style is one of understated sartorial splendor. He wears a dark suit, red tie, white shirt, and a snazzy red-and-white-striped vest with its own abbreviated collar. Given that his company, Mrs. Mudd, produces a line of high-fashion men's clothing, one would hardly expect less.

I am lucky. I am his first interview of the day, but I go straight to the dogs.

Robert Julian: *The Dancer Upstairs* is littered with the carcasses of dead dogs. Were they real, and where did they come from?

John Malkovich: They were real carcasses. We got them from the sanitation department, you know, dogs that were killed or poisoned.

Film is a director's medium, and as an actor, you must always surrender control to the director. Are you working out your control issues by becoming a director?

No. I don't really have any, because I don't mind giving up control. I've done it my whole professional life.

Are you aware how much Javier Bardem in *The Dancer Upstairs* recalls Clark Gable, circa *Soldier of Fortune* in the early '50s?

Very aware. That's exactly how I see Javier. I think he's like Clark Gable to the extent he's quite bifurcated. He's pure movie star right out of the '40s, but he's also a great actor, which few of those stars were.

When you first read the script of *Being John Malkovich*, what did you think?

I thought it was really funny. I was really taken by the quality of the writing. Most of the things you read are either really bad to the point that the author must be delusional in his perception of his own abilities, or they're hackneyed in a sort of Hollywood style of writing. I never thought for a second anyone would make the movie, but I found it extremely funny — very trenchant and well-observed.

And what was it like putting on those dresses and singing on top of that piano?

Wonderful. ▼

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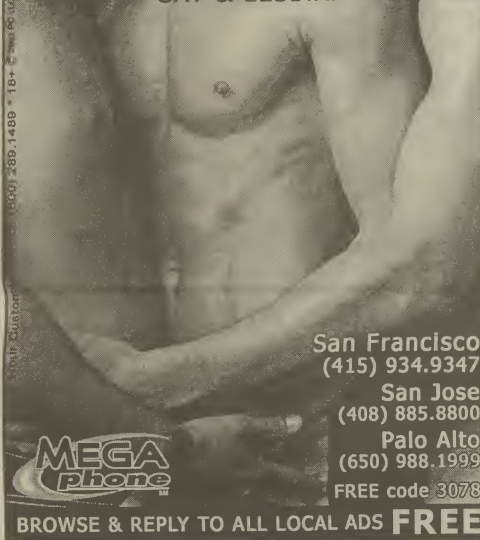
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Extreme makeover

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Where would we be without TV? In the past week we've seen some amazing moments. George Bush declared the war on Iraq over (despite the fact that American soldiers and Iraqi civilians continue to die in clashes over who will lead the nation now up for grabs) while in military uniform. The plethora of Democratic candidates for President in 2004 held their first debate. Oprah gave Coretta Scott King, who has had the same hairstyle and make-up (and we think clothes as well) for 50 years, a makeover. Bianca finally got kissed on *All My Children* in the first-ever lesbian smooch on daytime TV. And Yoko Ono climbed into a big black bag with Conan O'Brien and got him to take his clothes off.

Like we said, where would we be without TV? Calmer, perhaps, because without TV we wouldn't have seen the smug face of our Commander-in-Chief dressed up like Tom Cruise in *Top Gun* giving his opening salvo for the 2004 campaign. We were appalled that he used the men and women who had so recently risked their young lives in the war on Iraq as props, but we have come to realize that there are no depths to which Bush will not plunge. (On someone who failed to show up for his assigned military duties during the Vietnam War, wearing a uniform was an insult to anyone who has ever actually served in the military.)

Also stressful was watching the Dems line their sorry asses up for a Bush rematch that should have been a cakewalk if any of the Congresspersons running for President had managed to stand up to Bush since he corralled the office.

We have to give some credit for sheer ballsiness to some of the contenders, however. Carol Mosely Braun, the first African-American woman Senator, was unable to keep her Senate seat due to financial scandal, but she doesn't think that will hurt her chances as a black woman candidate for President.

There's nothing we can say about Al Sharpton that hasn't been said before. We're certain his problems with indictments and rumored indictments won't harm his chances. No doubt after watching *American Dreams* every Sunday, voters are yearning for a President who looks just like Little Richard.

The Saturday-night debate had to be scheduled post-sunset to accommodate the end of *shabbas* (a word most Americans don't even know) for Sen. Joe Lieberman, an Orthodox Jew. We can't imagine why the same people who refused to vote for Al Gore in 2000 because he chose a Jew for his running mate wouldn't vote for a Jew for President in 2004.

The only true Democrat in the running is Vermont's Howard Dean, who gave us our quote of the week when he told CBS News that the Democratic Party needed "a backbone transplant." From what we've seen of Dean on the tube, he may very well be the one to do it, but he'll have to step over the cadavers of the front-runners, Sen. John Kerry and Rep. Dick Gephardt, both of whom are

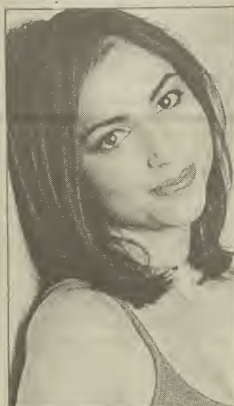
strong candidates, but with far more centrist politics than Dean. Anyone who has been watching TV knows most of the Dems have been running on a "I'm-more-Republican-than-George-Bush" ticket, especially Lieberman, who could be Bush's running mate in 2004 if Dick Cheney doesn't get another bionic part in time.

Despite popular wisdom being against old-time Democrats, we predict Dean will win New Hampshire because he plays well against Bush, was the only anti-war candidate in the Dem line-up, and is extremely good on TV, which tends to influence voters.

Bianca's big moment

We also predict Eden Reigel will get an Emmy for the most daring performance by an actress on daytime TV. For several years, Reigel has played Bianca Montgomery on *All My Children*, and for over two years she has had to play the lesbian character with a straight face as Bianca has lost

one potential girlfriend after another to events that would have sent any other baby dyke fleeing into the arms of the first man she could find.



Eden Reigel: Bianca baby.

Last week, daytime history was made (ABC actually ran promos saying just that) when Bianca finally got kissed onscreen, full on the mouth by Lena Kundera, the corporate spy who decided to come in from the cold (and get off the bisexual fence) and become Bianca's lover. The Polish model turned agent provocateur was supposed to bed Bianca to seduce corporate secrets from her, but ended up falling for the gamin heir to the Enchantment fortune. Since the kiss at the airport as Lena was running away and Bianca wooed her back, the two have been inseparable. They can't keep their hands off each other, just like real-life lesbians. Bianca and Lena were practically screwing during a yoga work-out class at the gym. After yoga came the steamroom, replete with semi-naked backrubs. And Bianca told her nosy mother (and Lena's boss) Erica that Lena was too busy (being about to take Bianca to bed) to come to Erica's rescue.

The AMC writers and producers deserve some credit. Daytime is a ghetto all its own, and even as every straight person on AMC has been hopping from bed to bed, Bianca hasn't been allowed more than hand-holding on-screen. But despite resistance from straight

viewers, sponsors and the powers-that-be, AMC has kept Bianca and her queerness a front-burner storyline for over two years, and the pay-off is finally here. Reigel has played Bianca with a fabulous range of anger, poignancy and sweet coming-of-age sexiness. We hope Lena can redeem herself from her corporate misdeeds to be Bianca's gal-pal for at least a full spin-cycle on AMC.

Bye-bye, Buffy

The AMC storyline may have piqued *One Life to Live* writers' interest. This week, Marcy told Al that her youngest brother, stationed at Camp Lejeune, was gay, to which Al responded, "Don't ask, don't tell." Marcy told Al she was sorry for her brother because their father was homophobic, and her brother was a terrific guy and deserved to feel good about himself and be happy. We would love to see a gay character on *OLTL*, but we also loved this exchange, particularly the use of the military during the height of the Iraq conflict. This wasn't just sweeps-month hype. Go *OLTL*!

Be prepared for the next few weeks to bring some exciting season finales as well as series finales. Two shows that helped put queers on the network map are scheduled to end, *Dawson's Creek* and our beloved *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. We can only hope that the series finales will do the shows justice (DC has been lackluster this season, but *Buffy* has been at the top of its game). Willow, the lesbian



Alyson Hannigan as Willow.

character from *Buffy*, will likely move to the spin-off series *Angel*, so stay tuned. (Meanwhile, most of *Buffy* is now on DVD, and well worth the purchase for devotees.)

We're hoping season finales of *ER* and *Will & Grace* will offer some clue as to queer upgrades for next season. The lesbian storyline *ER*'s been running for four seasons never seems to stay front-burner. Meanwhile, *W&G*, despite headliners like Madonna, Matt Damon and Elton John, has simply not been as funny this season. We have yet to see the boys having any kind of on-screen sex like the lesbians on *Buffy* and *ER*.

After the sweeps come the doldrums (although our guilty pleasure, ABC's *Extreme Makeover*, will continue post-sweeps), but with Bush in the White House and lucrative postwar contracts going to all his cronies, it might actually mean some investigative reporting will get done, if only to fill up those TV-magazine hours. Stranger things have happened (Coretta Scott King's makeover on *Oprah*). Stay tuned. ▼

FILM

Matt Dillon

◀ Arts cover

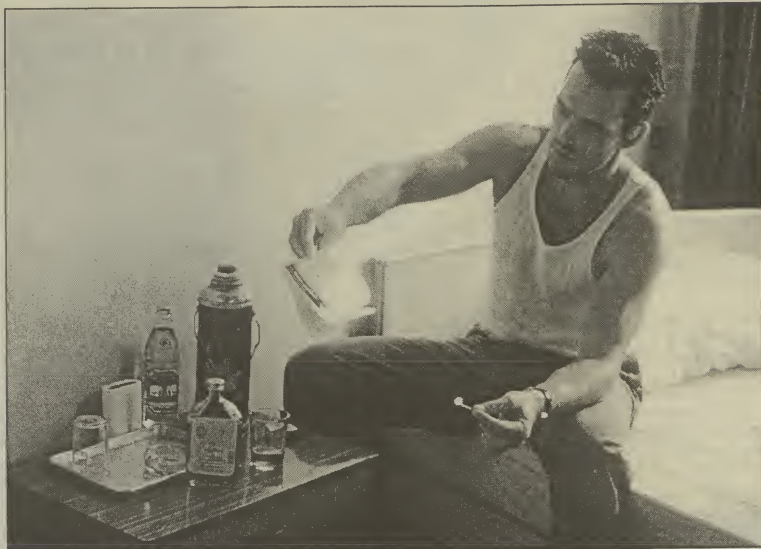
cause they got cut from the film. Not for any other reason."

He then pauses and thinks a bit.

"Well, my shirt does come off in one scene," Dillon realizes with a hypnotizing stare. "I take it off when I'm putting on another shirt. But you know, as a foreigner in Southeast Asia, that might be considered a little bit tasteless. You'd be surprised. To roll up your sleeves is disrespectful in Cambodia in some circles. To be an Easterner walking around with your shirt off can also be considered disrespectful. Although in Cambodia, you see Cambodians out in the country and even in the city walking around with their shirts off all the time. Yet you'll see a cyclo driver with his sleeves rolled down. Anyway, that's all I can say about that. It never occurred to me whether I should do my scenes with my shirt off or on. I never really talked about it."

Gentleman caller

Whew! Glad that *that* was over, I asked Dillon, who outed his teacher in *In & Out* (1997), what he thought of having so many gay fans. Smiling, the man replied, "As far as anybody is a fan of mine, I appreciate it. I don't care if they're gay, straight, black, white, whatever, I'm always appreciative. I work hard, and this business can be kind of humbling at times. I don't think I've ever met anybody who's seen everything I've ever done except there's this guy in my build-



Writer/director Matt Dillon also stars as Jimmy in *City of Ghosts*: 'Longevity's what it's about.'

ing. This guy even saw the play I did on Broadway. So he's the one soul who's seen everything, and I'm so appreciative. He's an older gentleman. He always comes down and says, 'I saw you in this or that, and you were terrific.' It's just really nice. Obviously, I feel really grateful to have anybody, gay or straight, who admires me." As for the anti-Dillon naysayers, Dillon has recently responded to them with, "There were certain perceptions that people had of me, you know: 'He's dumb,' or,

'He's just got a pretty face,' or, 'He's a thug,' or, 'He can only do one thing.' I'm not concerned with that now. Longevity's what it's about." *City of Ghosts* certainly validates Dillon's stance. The hunk is multi-talented.

But what about coming up with some more comedies like *There's Something About Mary* (1999), for which he won an MTV Movie Award for Best Villain?

"Well, I think I might do a comedy next," Matt grins. "I do think people respect me as a

comedic actor, but the studios never think of sending me the scripts they would ordinarily send

comedic actors, so I've had very few offers."

And what about the way his career has gone since he debuted in 1979's suburban-teens-on-a-rampage flick, *Over the Edge*?

"Well, it's been... hmmm," Dillon ponders. "It's been a long time from there. Twenty years to directing. I'm really pleased with where I am now. I remember as far back as when I was doing *Flamingo Kid* (1984) that I was talking to Gary Marshall one day, saying to him, 'Gary, I'd like to direct.' He said, 'No, no, no, kid, you don't want to direct.' I asked why. He said, 'You got to get up too early in the morning.' Things have a way of working at their own pace. No matter how much you try to will them to go forward, they just take time."

With that, he rose for his next round of interviews, and I queried, "So really, how does it feel to be a sex idol to both men and women?"

Smiling again, this time with a twinkle in his eyes, he responded, "Do you want me to take my shirt off?" ▼

City of Ghosts opens Friday.

SF Symphony

◀ page 28

lovely touches, like the clapper of a bell disturbed by the breeze and the sound of a rope slapping against the side of a boat, drift in and out.

The triptych closes with "The Mountain," Adams returning to some of the gleeful sonorities of his earliest minimalism. The peak in this movement is closer to the landscape of the *Alpine* Symphony by Strauss than another place in New England; when the percussion breaks loose, there is a brief hint of a wild Italian dance, a saltarello.

The composer attempts to convey his feelings of epiphany when climbing, and allows the listener to join in his exaltation at the summit. There is a wonderful feeling of reflection as *My Father*

knew Charles Ives concludes.

Adams has agreed to write three more pieces for the SFS over a 10-year span, finishing in time for the orchestra's centennial celebration. The first score is dedicated "For MTT," and let's hope he'll be here to conduct each new installment.

The concluding subscription concerts of the season also allowed soloist Hilary Hahn an opportunity to rehearse the Stravinsky Violin Concerto. She is joining the orchestra on the tour with the elegant piece, and she demonstrates remarkable poise for one so young. Her interpretation was accomplished and shows a real understanding. She even has her encore all ready: a bourree from a Bach Partita.

Another major opus included in the tour is Mahler's Symphony No. 9. We got a shattering foretaste of what will be presented

abroad two weeks ago in Davies Hall. Mahler is MTT's current passion, and the ongoing recording of the full cycle of symphonies is, arguably, the greatest interpretive accomplishment of his extraordinary career.

Freed of any lingering constraints from the great Leonard Bernstein performances — which really first alerted Americans to Mahler's genius — MTT is creating many new and deeply moving insights. The glory and affecting tenderness of the recent performances of the Ninth should blow them away in Europe, but more importantly, serve as a wonderful diplomatic mission from the States. The final tour performance of the work will take place, appropriately, at the Theatre Champs Elysees in Paris on May 25. *Bon voyage*, SFS, and thanks for a particularly satisfying season at home. ▼



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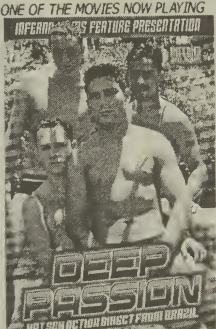
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Lea DeLaria

◀ Arts cover

Growing up in St. Louis, with a father who was a jazz pianist, it seems perfectly logical that you would be doing jazz vocals, but the path was circuitous. How come?

The first thing I ever did professionally was sing with my father as a jazz singer. I got into theater in high school and began writing plays, and that was a natural lead-in to stand-up comedy. Since I was already a performer, it was a logical thing to do. But comedy took hold, and no one could have been more surprised than me. It's been 20 years this month since I first went out on stage to do stand-up, and one year after I began, I was supporting

myself fully doing nothing else.

When I became a Broadway leading lady — that expression makes me laugh, but it's true — I became known more as a singer than a comedian, except in the gay community. The Warner Brothers people approached me because of my jazz roots, and because of my concert version of *Sweeney Todd*. My second record for Warners will be released on August 26, called *Double Standards*. It's college rock and alternative rock done in a jazz style.

You're very close to your father. Was he surprised or upset when you came out as a lesbian?

He's Sicilian, so, of course, he was both surprised and upset. He was Catholic and Italian, and Italians believe that if you ignore something, it will go away. He was

totally surprised. We went through the whole Italian thing of screaming and fighting. He was horrified. But parents have to love you, no matter what, and it can take a long time, but they usually come around. I cleaned it up the Italian way. I just ignored him.

Do you think your Midwestern upbringing in an Italian family gave you a need to rebel? And if so, against what?

It gave me a need for Xanax. Yeah, being raised there was a challenge. But there were only three Italian families in my German town, and that made me feel less insecure about being different than others, because my family was completely different from the other families on my street.

Your SF years, when you were doing in-your-face radical dyke stand-up, what were they like for you personally?

I was young. At that age, you're still numb to your own mortality, even with AIDS being around — and it was all around me at the time. I was fearless, I did things then I'm not sure I would do today. Maybe, maybe not. I was more strident and less capable of compromise. But when I think



'I can't imagine wanting to recreate myself physically.'

That's tough. As life goes on, these great experiences keep coming up. I'm going to go way out on a limb and say it would be the

time favorite singers. She's up there with Ella, Betty Carter, and Anita O'Day. Kaye Ballard! That makes me laugh so much, it's only because we're both dykes. That's the only reason someone would say that. I have too much of a girlish timbre in my voice to be Kaye Ballard. I'm more like Nancy Walker.

If you could completely recreate yourself physically, who would you want to look like?

I can't imagine wanting to recreate myself physically. I love me. I'm happy with who I am. Maybe I'd be Samuel L. Jackson. I've always wanted to be an edgy smart, sexy black guy.

If you could cast a spell and make anyone in the world your love slave, who would it be?

I'm a lesbian, honey. I can cast a spell. We're the original witches. It's a toss-up between Natalie Portman and Sigourney Weaver, that would be the yin and the yang of the kind of woman I want. Or maybe the Bush twins, then I could get next to the most powerful man in the world and kill him.

In your heart of hearts, are you a gypsy or homebody?

A gypsy, daddy. Watch your money and your girls around me. ▼

'I was bald at one point, a punk dyke, and I used to go up onstage and make fun of Holly Near. No lesbian could imagine that back then. Now only the old-schoolers know who she is.'

I'm right, I still won't back down. Only now I do it more diplomatically. I was bald at one point, a punk dyke, and I used to go up onstage and make fun of Holly Near. No lesbian could imagine that back then. I terrorized Holly Near onstage all the time. Now only the old-schoolers know who she is.

What has been your most fulfilling professional experience as a performer?

tribute to Stephen Sondheim at Carnegie Hall, where I stopped the show. I walked back onstage to take that extra bow, and thought, "Judy Garland did this." It gave me goosebumps.

I'm an old-school entertainer. I'm a continuation of that tradition. I can sing, act, write; I can do stand-up, and I can dance. You don't see that any more. I'm from the Sammy Davis, Jr. school of entertainment. You have to be good at all of it.

If someone described you as a cross between Carmen McRae and Kaye Ballard, would you consider that a compliment?

Well, Carmen is one of my all-

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Creative, yes; but sadly, not gay

Director Eric Byler on his new film 'Charlotte Sometimes'

by David Lamble

Like Russell, the blazing red-head of an art student so deliciously played by Ben Foster on the HBO miniseries *Six Feet Under*, Eric Byler, the director/writer of *Charlotte Sometimes* — a pioneering film exploring romantic problems among twentysomething Asian Americans — is the boy who isn't gay.

Raised until the cusp of puberty in Virginia by an American father and a fourth-generation Chinese American mother, Eric was abruptly uprooted and replanted in multi-ethnic Hawaii in time for high school. As a child looking Asian in a very white Virginia suburb, Eric felt like an outsider. In Hawaii, Eric found himself considered a white boy and, odder still, often thought to be a gay boy. "I was probably the gayest kid there was in high school, even though I wasn't, and I never questioned my sexuality until college. But I was the one who was suspected of being gay, and I was not aware of anyone who really was in high school. But it was because of my Boy George T-shirts, and maybe the way that I was so weird in every other way."

Byler's role as the boy who isn't gay was turned up a notch when

fate brought him to Wesleyan University (which has in recent years enjoyed a reputation for having one of the highest ratios of gay and lesbian students among America's prestigious private schools), where he sought the art world as a place to resolve his identity crisis.

"Artists are somehow united by this sense of being isolated as children and trying to seek out a way of trying to explain that. They either create worlds where they're less isolated, or they create worlds that [allow them to] explore why they're isolated," Byler said in a recent interview. "So in college, working with gay or lesbian artists, I learned a great deal where those parallels lie. One of the chief collaborators in the writing of *Charlotte Sometimes* is a gay man."

The film, opening Friday, presents its audience with a deliciously tortured romantic triangle — delicious, that is, until it happens to be your particular problem. Michael, a sexy Japanese-American auto mechanic (actor Michael Idemoto adds octane to the role with a skinhead look that belies a nerdy demeanor) is running a garage in LA with his Aunt Margie (Shizuko Hoshi), with whom he observes traditional Asian family proprieties including a weekly Sunday dinner.



Matt Westmore, Eugenia Yuan, Michael Idemoto in *Charlotte Sometimes*.

Michael harbors a crush on Lori (Eugenia Yuan), who rents his upstairs flat, which doubles as a love nest for fervent bedplay with her Asian American boyfriend Justin (Matt Westmore). When Justin falls asleep, Lori sneaks downstairs to Michael's flat, where the two share a *Will & Grace*-like friendship despite Michael's not being gay. Things come to a head one night when Michael meets a mystery woman, Darcy (Jacqueline Kim), at a local bar, and soon finds himself caught between a long-running, sexless, obsessive relationship and a powerful, erotic, but likely short-term fling with a stranger.

Byler explains that *Charlotte Sometimes* is based on a theory of his called the Princess and the Eunuch, whereby Asian American men are taught by the culture to consider their sexuality an unwanted, even ugly intruder in the

American sexual landscape. The lesson for the Asian man: social acceptance lies with sexual repression. At the same time, Asian American women are encouraged to use their beauty and sexuality as their passport to mainstream acceptance. Byler notes that his own bittersweet experience of being thought Asian in Virginia, white in Hawaii, and gay everywhere made him realize the uncanny parallels between the problems of race and sexual orientation in America.

"When a woman has a husband and then has a gay male friend, she's found a way to have two relationships take the place of one. Because the man is gay, at least in her husband's and her own eyes, there's nothing wrong with a very intimate relationship with this man. In the case of *Charlotte Sometimes*, we're taking a woman who is Asian who has a

boyfriend who is half-Asian, but he has more Caucasian features. She prefers the touch of the more Anglo-looking man, has a friend who's full-blooded Asian as she is, and as strange as it sounds, there's a culture among Asian American young men and women that sort of assumes if you're an Asian girl, your friends who are Asian boys are just friends, not potential lovers. There a lot of Asian men who are really pissed off about this, who have stormed out of *Charlotte*, pushing the doors open so hard they've destroyed things in the lobby."

Byler's path to *Charlotte* came by way of a mentorship with a Chinese American gay man named Jeff Loo, currently a theatre director in LA. Byler describes Loo as a short man who possesses a booming, very masculine voice, which ironically made him perfect to play the alpha-male boyfriend Justin in workshop readings of the script.

"I remember saying to Jeff that he didn't really understand this whole fear we have as Asian men that we're not man enough, that our penises aren't large enough. I said, 'It's easier for you because you're gay.' And he said, 'Are you kidding? Have you ever heard of a size queen?' And he went into the way Asian men in the gay community are objectified and exoticized, just like Asian women are treated in the heterosexual communities." ▼

Opens Friday.

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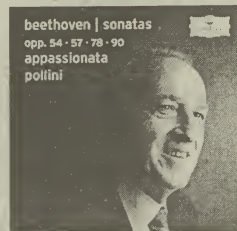
Overstating the case

Pollini assaults Beethoven on CD

by Tim Pfaff

The lowercase lettering on the cover of Maurizio Pollini's unsettling, even unpleasant new Beethoven sonata CD (DG) (containing the "Appassionata," Op. 57, and three two-movement sonatas, Opp. 54, 78, & 90) is its last moment of understatement. A good "Appassionata" is necessarily big, and, predictably, Pollini does not demur. His long-awaited reading of one of Beethoven's most famous sonatas marks its most heaven-storming performances on disc. Regrettably, the effort — and effort is everywhere in evidence — represents the triumph of exhibitionism over interpretation. It by no means signifies nothing, but it's full of sound and fury that blur whatever it does signify.

The Shakespearean language is not accidental. The booklet essay makes reference to Beethoven's opaque remark that *The Tempest* offers insights into the "Appassionata." Pollini believes the remark refers to the eponymous storm Prospero unleashes. The essay continues: "The reference, however, is not to be taken in a descriptive sense, but as the representation of the human condition, an existential condition where all certainty and hope have been lost." One would love to have Beethoven's response to that. But, given all the noise he generates, the massively cultivated Pollini



would seem to have taken the storm literally enough. Disquietingly, it calls to mind another of the Bard's tempests. There's something King Learishly mad, and sad, about the railings in this CD.

It is, in most respects, "old" Pollini, that is, the pianist doing what he always has done: outplaying the competition by a measurable distance, and backing up the finger-power with brain power and a massive level of cultivation. But it's also, quite possibly, aging Pollini, and, on evidence, the prospect of decline sits heavily on the shoulders (and fingers) of this supremely proud musician. What characterizes the playing throughout the CD — in the "smaller" sonatas as well as the "Appassionata" — is interpretation with a capital "I."

One of the thrills of Pollini's previous Beethoven sonata CDs (recorded roughly in reverse order) is the way the playing came at you: confident, penetrating, and as suffused with great ideas as with nimble fingerwork. This lat-

est, to return to Shakespeare one more time, protests too much. For all the splendid playing and truly masterful command of the musical architecture, the pianist seems virtually unable to go more than a few measures without tattooing a phrase on one's eardrums with a defiant "So there."


Bed of coals

The wonderfully "modern" quality that Pollini has long brought to his Beethoven has been replaced with an all-too-contemporary feeling of conquest. There's something unmistakably bully pulpit about the playing on this CD. It more demands submission than invites compliance.

Not all will submit.

The studio recording, made last June, finds Pollini in characteristically bracing form. The force of his attack, the evenness of his scales, the eerie perfection of his articulation throughout, his almost uncanny sense of scale across an improbable range of dynamics, continue to set his playing apart. It's most successful in his hot-to-the-touch "Appassionata," though even Pollini's most ardent fans may not want to walk on these coals often. For this Pollini fan, the chief joy of writing this review is putting the CD back on the shelf, after weeks of trying to deduce what the assaultive playing "means."

There's something, if not quite
page 39 ►



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Live music thrives

Reports of the demise of the local music scene are premature. No doubt the recording industry is in major flux, but there's no shortage of live acts hereabouts. On any given night, you'll find all sorts of gigs happening at a multitude of venues, with fans and artists closer than ever.

Take a gander at "The List" of upcoming funk-punk-thrash-ska compiled by Steve Koepke (jon.luini.com/thelist) and you'll see bands lined up and hot-to-trot each week at such local watering holes as the Pound, Bottom of the Hill, Kimo's, Hemlock Tavern, Edinburgh Castle, The Voodoo Lounge, El Rio, Great American Music Hall, The Make Out Room, and many other locales.

This Saturday, May 10, for instance, you can attend a "Punk Prom" with **Pansy Division** at the legendary Gilman Street punk-rock venue in Berkeley, playing along with Against Me (Florida), Fifth Hour Hero (Canada), Jason Webley (Washington), and Panty Raid. The gig starts at 8 p.m. and the cover is \$5 (\$1 off if you come in prom clothes). It's at 924 Gilman St., (corner of 8th and Gilman), Berkeley. Info: 510-525-9926.

Of course you've also got your folk musicians playing various down-home venues such as the Rite Spot Cafe, Bazaar Cafe, Dolores Park Cafe and so on, including churches and private homes.

On May 10, **Garrin Benfield** (www.garrin.com) will be playing a select House Concert in Vallejo at 8 p.m. The \$12-\$15 sliding-scale admission includes hors d'oeuvres and beverages. For reservations (required) and location email saskiat@lymphnet.org. Space is limited, so call early to ensure your spot. Joining the show will be singer/songwriter Michelle Tanner.

Benfield also plays at 10 p.m. on May 16 at Kimo's, 1351 Polk St., with his full band. Amee Chapman opens, and the Alexis Harte Band closes the show.

Fresh out with a new album, *Different and the Same*, singer/songwriter **Mark Weigle** kicks into high gear with two shows this week. This is Weigle's fourth album, and it showcases him at his best, offering soulful renderings of some great songs by various artists, including the lively track "AZT" by Maurice Kelly of The Kinsey Sicks. Weigle has received great reviews for his earlier albums *The Truth* (1999), *All That Matters* (2000), and *Out of the Loop* (2002). His latest effort shines.

On Saturday, May 10, Weigle will throw a free CD-release party at 8 p.m. at St. Francis Lutheran Church, a half-block north of Market St., across from Safeway. Then on Sunday, May 11, Weigle plays a live set at "Sundance Saloon," the queer Country Western dance club. Come for the live music and a two-steppin' and line-dancin' shindig from 6-11 p.m. (dance instruction 6-7:30 p.m.) at 550 Barn-evel (near Bayshore & Industrial). Tickets are \$5. Call 820-1403 or visit www.sundancesaloon.org ▼



Mark Weigle



Christopher Slater examines his life in Joe Besecker's black comedy *Dead Heads* at the Jon Sims Center for the Arts.

Eri

'Dead Heads' @ Jon Sims Center

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents a JSC/Alchemy Production: Joe Besecker's *Dead Heads*, directed by Jeffrey Hartgraves. It's a black comedy loosely based on a crime committed in the mid-1990s, set in the Lower Polk, where Tim, a faded porn actor, is kept by older gentleman Doug, who obsessively watches Tim's videos as the couple count the days of their "graveyard relationship" — each is at varying degrees of AIDS. Enter Melody, Tim's drug-addled, pregnant girlfriend. She and Tim decide to do away with Doug to get his money. On their escape, Tim meets a mystery man from his past who may have just come back from the dead. Starring Greg Lucey, Christopher Slater, Treacy Corrigan, and Jesse Gustafson. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLÖF). 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

'War Toys' @ The LAB

Opening reception: The LAB presents "War Toys," an installation by Larnie Fox, and, in the Foyer Gallery: Charles Gatewood's "Forbidden Photographs." Fox's "War Toys" is an installation of new kinetic sculpture exploring his lifelong fascination with images of the machinery of war. Gatewood's "Forbidden Photographs" is an exhibition of photographs documenting America's alternative culture for the past 40 years; the exhibit is held in conjunction with the tonight's opening at the Roxie of *Forbidden Photographs*, Bill Macdonald's film about Gatewood's life and work. Gatewood will be present at the opening reception to sign copies of his many books, including his latest, *Messy Girls*, just published by Goliath Books. 5-9pm. Show runs thru May 24. Gallery hours: Tue-Sat 1-6pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 864-8855; www.thelab.org

'Forbidden Photos' @ Roxie Cinema

Premiere screening: *Forbidden Photographs: The Life and Work of Charles Gatewood*, a 90-min. documentary film by Bill Macdonald. The

film follows Gatewood from wild fetish parties in New York City to our own Folsom Street Fair, to the artistic lunacy of Nevada's Burning Man celebration, to the secret worlds of outlaw bikers, S/M dungeon players, goths, vampires, and enthusiasts of radical body modification. \$8 gen'l admission. 6, 8 & 10pm (plus 2 & 4pm Sat, Sun & Wed). Thru May 15. 3117 16th St. (at Valencia). Info: 863-1087. Book-signing and party afterwards across the street at Adobe Books. 9pm-midnight.

Scott Capurro @ Julia Morgan Theatre, Berkeley

Internationally renowned comedian, author, radio personality and playwright Scott Capurro will perform a special show of solo comedy showcasing his dark-edged wit and scathing social commentary. A recent transplant to NYC, this will be Scott's first East Bay performance of 2003. \$20. 8pm. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tix/info: 925-798-1300.

Teen Performance Ensemble @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center's Teen Performance Ensemble presents Moliere's "The Doctor in Spite of Himself," a slapstick comedy about a woodcutter tricked into taking on the role of the world's most famous physician. Directed by Angela Jolly. For ages 9 and up. \$5 per youth for groups of 10 or more; \$7 children; \$10 adults; Arts Card Patrons receive 2-for-1 admission. 8pm Fri & Sat; 2pm Sun. Thru May 18. 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 861-4914; www.nctcsf.org

'Oh My Goddess' @ Venue 9

Footloose Presents *Oh My Goddess*, written and performed by Sherry Glazer, directed by Rod Kaats. Glazer serves up satire as an antidote to the critical global condition. She takes on the entire Judeo-Christian belief system based on Patriarchy and reminds us that the return of the mother is at hand. \$15-\$18 Thu & Sun; \$17-\$20 Fri & Sat. 8pm (7pm Sun). Thru June 1. Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

'Mysterious Skin' @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center's Pride Season 8 presents the world premiere of the drama *Mysterious Skin* by

Prince Gomolvilas, adapted from the novel by Scott Heim, directed by Arturo Catricala. \$18-\$28. 8pm (2pm Sun). Thru June 28. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Nancy Karp + Dancers @ Cowell Theater

Nancy Karp + Dancers perform *La Traversa*, choreographer Karp's new work resonating with the excitement of a Sicilian marketplace. Plus two movements from Karp's 2000 premiere, *Kalasam*, set to a score by Paul Dresner, who will perform live with fellow musician Joel Davel. Says Karp in her Artist's Statement: "I take life's ordinary movements, strip them down to their essential components, and then combine them, recombine them, and elaborate on them. What emerges from these 'structural investigations' are vocabularies of movement. My dances evolve, like language evolves, as those vocabularies are used and explored." \$22 gen'l; \$18 student/senior. \$40/\$75/\$125 including post-performance reception. 8pm. Also on Sat., May 10 (performance only). Fort Mason Center. Info: www.nancykarp.org. Tix: 345-7575; ticketweb.com

'big, the musical' @ Randall Theater

The Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company presents *big, the musical*, an adaptation of the 1987 hit movie. When frustrated adolescent Josh Baskin wishes he were "big" and wakes up the next morning as a 30-year-old man, he discovers there's much more to being an adult than he bargained for. Book by John Wiedman, music by David Shire, lyrics by Richard Maltby. Directed by Diane Price. \$5-\$7 door. 8pm May 9 & 10, 16 & 17; 2pm May 11 & 18. Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way (above the Castro). Info: 554-9523.

Sat 10

Ronnie Larson's 'Cocksucker'

@ Theatre Rhinoceros Opening night: *Cocksucker: A Love Story*, written and directed by Ronnie Larson. The author of *Sleeping with Straight Men* and *Making Porn* has now turned his uncompromising sights on the



Students (including Bérangère, pictured) of the Experimental Performance Institute (EPI) offer up a performance fest at New College. See Saturday.

few, the proud, the Marines. Set near the Oceanside Marine Base, Larsen weaves true stories of Marines caught acting in gay porn videos with the stories of the many who didn't. Starring Josh Feinman, Michaela Greeley, Randal Hart, Ronnie Kerr, Anna Loar, Octavio Saez De Ibarra and Eric Womack. \$30 Opening Night; \$20 Wed; \$30 Fri & Sat; \$25 Sun. 8pm (3pm & 7pm Sun). Thru June 7. 2926 16th St. Tix: 861-5079; www.therhino.org

'Fauxgirls!' @ Marlana's

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of "Fauxgirls!" the drag sensation starring Mini Minerva, David, Anjelica Devarox and Victoria Secret, plus newcomers Marlana Phoenix, Daffney Deluxe and Chanel, and featuring as many of the show's past Guest Stars as they can line up. Don't miss the glamour and camp. No cover. 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 864-6672; www.fauxgirls.com

Harupin-Ha @ SomArts Center

Asian American Dance Performances in association with the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center present "Eclipse," performed by Harupin-Ha, Koichi Tamano's Butoh Company. The name means that whoever dances Butoh will achieve awareness

of being alive. Harupin-Ha is a manifestation of the mind in resonance with harmony. \$15. 8pm. Also 2pm on May 11. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix: 864-4120.

Lavender Seniors of the East Bay

Lavender Seniors, a group for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders over the age of 55, hold their monthly potluck at 12 noon. They also seek volunteers of all ages to work with socially isolated seniors. San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave. Info/Rides from BART: 510-667-9655.

EPI Performance Fest @ New College

The Experimental Performance Institute (EPI) in residence at New College of California unveils original solo students works in dance, theatre, performance, poetry, vocal technique, songwriting, clowning and pilates. Bold acts of social resuscitation, community building and love as performance art. Students of Dwayne Calizo perform original songs on themes of war and peace; while those of Zak Barnett explore war through performance poetry & ensemble theatre. Plus Tanya Calomaneri's release-based dance students, Erika Shuch's dance theater students, and Krista DeNio's movement theater students working through spatial and



Nancy Karp + Dancers generate a vibrant Sicilian atmosphere in *La Traversa* at Cowell Theater. See Friday.

temporal relationships. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Two programs: 6:30-8pm & 8:15-10pm. Also on Sun., May 11. 777 Valencia St. Info: 437-3487; www.epi-arts.org

Sun

'Queer and Jewish' @ Main Library

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center present "Queer and Jewish, or Jewish and Queer: Writers Wrestling with Issues of Identity," a panel discussion moderated by scholar Patricia Lin, with authors Caryn Aviv, Ali Cannon, Andrew Ramer and David Steinberg. What is the future of Jewish queer writing? And of the queer Jewish community? Will it remain separate or merge with the mainstream? These and other questions will be addressed. Free. 3pm. Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, Lower Level, Main SF Public Library, 100 Larkin St. Info: www.shaarzahav.org

PFLAG @ St. Francis Lutheran Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) welcomes the world-class athletes of Triangle Tae Kwon Do Club to share their vision and demonstrate their martial arts. Ken Craig and Andy McGuire formed the club, which offers classes to LGBT students of all levels, free of charge. Come learn that LGBT people need not be victims. Free. 2-3pm PFLAG support group (all welcome); 3-4pm program. 152 Church St. (at Market). Info: 921-8850.

MGM Garden Party @ MHR Garden

Midlife Gay Men (MGM) in collaboration with Stop AIDS Project's "In Our Prime" hosts a garden party for all midlife gay & bisexual men and their admirers. At 1:30pm participants will form small groups to discuss the topic "I Remember Mama," sharing favorite memories of their mothers, including mother's best advice. At 2pm each small group shares its insights with everyone. Complimentary appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. No charge (donations appreciated). 1-3pm. Most Holy Redeemer Garden, 100 Diamond St. (at 18th St.; Ellard Hall if weather inclement). RSVP: toll-free 1-866-668-4634; email migm-mhr@onebox.com

Mother's Day concert @ Grace Cathedral

In concert: Diane Meredith Belcher, one of America's premiere concert organists, playing Bach's Fantasy and Fugue in G minor, Duruflé's Prelude and Fugue on the Name "Alain", Marchand's Grand Dialogue, Hoiby's Theme and Variations, Michel's Three Jazz Organ Preludes, and Vienne's Westminster Carillon. Free. 3pm. 1100 California St. Info: www.gracecathedral.org

Mon

'QComedy' @ The Center

"QComedy Showcase," Monday night queer comedy at the LGBT Community Center, this week hosted by Lisa Geduldig, featuring Nick Leonard, Wesley Cannon, Angie Krass, Datner, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15. Reception at 7:30; show at 8pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org.



Alvin Tolentino gets down to basics in Purple Moon Dance Project's Greater Than The Sum Of Our Parts at Brava Theater. See Thursday

Info: www.Qcomedy.com

CASA @ Brava Theater Center

Children's After School Arts presents "Love Song for A City," a rollicking urban adventure through SF history, an original play written and directed by Leslie Einhorn (aka drag king Arty Fishal), with live music by members of The Woodyz, starring 50 children ages 5-11. Full of fabulous freaky fun, starting with a group of kids playing with a Ouija Board, summoning the ghost of a legendary actress who guides the kids through SF history. \$15-\$25 sliding. 7:30pm. 2789 24th St. (btwn Hampshire & York). Tix: 647-2822.

Tue

'Viva Variety 31'

@ Burial Clay Theatre

Steve Murray hosts the 31st installment of his hit show, "Viva Variety," as always featuring a lively line-up of stellar performers, including performance artist Peggy L'Eggs, the cast of John Fisher's *Queer Theory*, some fancy hip hop dance, exotic bird magic by Skibber's Wonderment, Velocity Circus' T-RUTH — the funky psychic, comedian Scott Capurro, and live music by The Kitchenettes with Barry Lloyd, the indie group Frances 8, pianist Houston Allred, and Jolie Holland. \$15 adv, \$18 door. 8pm. Afro-American Art & Cultural Complex, 762 Fulton St. (at Webster). Tix/info: 863-0741, ext. #2; www.makeitsoproductions.org

Lea DeLaria

@ The Plush Room

Opening night (one week only): "It's Delightful, It's Delicious, It's Delaria." Lea DeLaria performs songs from her latest CD, *Play It Cool*, including "The Ballad of Sweeney Todd," "Cool," "All That Jazz," and "Welcome To My Party." Join Lea and her fab trio for an evening of music and laughs. \$30 plus two-drink minimum. 8pm (3pm Sunday). Thru May 18. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St.

Tix/info: 885-2800; www.plushroom.com

'Agitate'

@ SF Camerawork

Opening reception: "Agitate: Negotiating the Photographic Process," curated by Dore Bowen & Chuck Mobley. Works that reexamine, rebuild, or dispense entirely with standard photographic apparatuses and printing surfaces. The artists Agitate aggressively to rework the photographic medium and reinterpret the role of the artist. Their purposeful interruption of traditional processes alters our perception. Free. 5-8pm. 1246 Folsom St. Info: 863-1001; sfcamerawork.org

NCLR/LGBT parenting @ The Center

The National Center for Lesbian Rights presents "Establishing Legal Parenting Rights for LGBT Parents: Domestic Partner Adoption and Other Procedures." This two-part workshop will provide participants with an overview of the legal mechanisms available in California for establishing legal parentage in LGBT parent families. Child-care Provided in the fabulous KidSpace (RSVP at 865-5553). Also during the workshop: COLAGE Activity Night in the Youth Space, open to youth ages 9-13 with LGBT parents and families. 7-8:30 pm SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Registration: Aimee at 981-1960.

Wed

Kate Klaire

@ Harvey Milk Library

An Acoustic Evening with local singer/songwriter Kate Klaire, acclaimed for her "unassumingly gorgeous voice full of dark clouds." Free. 7pm. Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Library. 3555 16th St. (near Market).

'Courage to Love' @ City of Refuge

Free "Courage To Love Relationship Seminar," offered by the Courage To Love Institute, "providing resources for achieving and exceeding your

relationship dreams." The facilitators are a lesbian couple who bring relationship support to the LGBT community." Free. 7-9pm. (6:30pm registration). City of Refuge, 1025 Howard St. Info: 401-8094; www.courage2love.com

Thu

Purple Moon Dance

@ Brava Theater

Purple Moon Dance Project presents "Greater Than The Sum Of Our Parts," original works rooted in Asian and Pacific Islander traditions, featuring LGBT Canadian and American API artists. Featuring works by Artistic Director Jill Togawa, Sharon Sato and Frances Gay Teves Sedayao, plus guest artist Arthi Varma's original choreography in the ancient Bharatanatyam style of South India, and Tongan Pacific Islander Sedrick Vanisi (UTOPIA) in a piece reflecting on performing as a young boy in drag, and now as a gay man who often performs female parts. \$16-\$26. 7:30pm. 2789 24th St. (at York). Tix: 647-2822.

Garth Twa/Mink Stole @ Books Ink

Garth Twa reads from *Durable Beauty*, with special guest Mink Stole. Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. (at 16th St.). Info: 864-6777.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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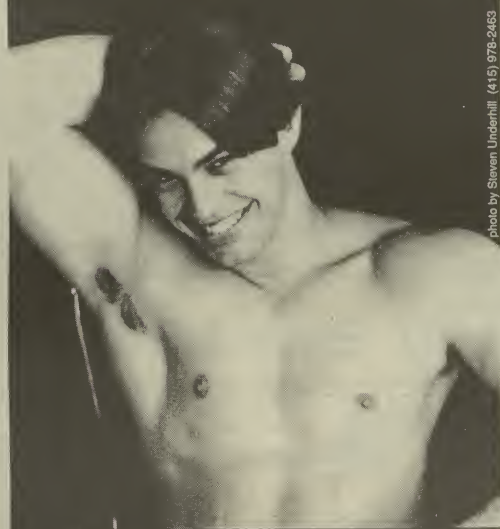


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Leather women celebrate Dyke daddy/diva contest at Space 550

by Mister Marcus

More than 300 people, mostly women, converged in the spacious Space 550 (550 Barneveld Ave.) last Saturday, May 3 for the third annual San Francisco Dyke Daddy and Dyke Diva contests, and it was one helluva party! Enthusiasm was high as both butch and femmes arrived at the contest, with Ms. Ingrid and Ms. Jay Kimball strutting their stuff in the Dyke Daddy competition, and Ms. Sh'Diva Black and Ms. Delaenya wowing the crowd in their quest for the Dyke Diva title.

Co-emcees Skeeter Wildman and Veronica Combs offered a startling contrast, Skeeter in a dazzling black-and-gray leather military-type uniform, and Veronica looking svelte and sexy in a black sheath with a wide red embroidered cummerbund. The crowd was in a frenzy at the delirious, upbeat opening dance number incorporating butches, femmes and leather men. And this was all within the first five minutes of the three-hour show!

Judges Dan Alexander, Annie Romano-Blas, Daddy Laura, "Vibby" Bramlett and Ms. Zoe were joined by two lottery-selected members, Biff Wilson and another woman. Their task was not an easy one. The fantasies were wildly out of this world, all humorous and quite daring. The speeches of all four women were cogent, informative and profound. The audience rose to its feet at least a half dozen times at the moxie and affirmative flair each contestant showed.

Raffle tickets were sold, and a check for \$1,000 was presented to a representative of the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund who was on hand — and there's more coming once all the bills are settled. A great \$7 dinner/buffet was offered as well and the staff of Space 550 went out of their way to accommodate everyone.

In between judging segments, some boffo entertainment by the Creamy Goodness musical group. Papa "Morning Star" Dino



Sh'Diva Black, left, was named Dyke Diva 2003, and Jay Kimball was named Dyke Daddy 2003, last Saturday, May 3 in San Francisco.

wrecked the audience with her great singing performance and the Burlesque-Esque girls had the place in an uproar.

Both outgoing Dyke Diva Billie and Dyke Daddy Vick each gave less 10 minutes of a stepping aside speech. Their insight into their year with the title, the friends they made, the challenges they faced and the challenges to their successors were met with stand up ovations and even a few tears. Vick Germany should give stepping aside speech lessons.

In my many years witnessing these segments of competitions worldwide, Vick Germany's speech was indeed a showstopper and indeed a classic of inclusion, challenges, outlooks, friendships and positive attitude. It was completely mesmerizing.

The moment of truth finally arrived as tally master Lisa Razzo made her way to the stage with the results. Sh'Diva Black of Oakland received her title patch and a bouquet of roses as the audience cheered lustily. More flowers and another patch went to Jay Kimball, the new Dyke Daddy.

It was a scintillating afternoon. Producer Ren Phoenix-Davis and her crew of volunteers are due a

big congratulation from both men and women of leather. The victory brunch on Sunday was another great get-together. Yes indeed, our women rocked last weekend. If you missed it, plan now for next year. I promise you, you will have a great time. Isn't that right, Rock and Roll Ramona?

IML 2003 edging closer

Send-off parties from New England to Texas and from Florida to the Northwest are taking place in the coming days as communities spur their contestants on in support for the IML 2003 competition.

A victory party at Pistons in Long Beach is taking place Saturday, May 10 for the "California Sweep" ABW winners, Bill, Sheryl and Boy Jeff, and parties galore are being planned in hotel suites at the IML host Palmer House Hotel. Rooms are still available there, and would you believe some of the contestants have not yet sent in their official applications to compete? Tsk Tsk. I wonder if the judges will weigh in on this aspect in their scoring?

The big parties in Chicago will again be the Toronto Maple Leaf, Don't Mess With Texas, Hot Ash, Hellfire and dozens more. This

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Saturday, May 10

It's the 9th Annual Mr. Triple R Leather contest at that world famous resort in Guerneville. Scot Howard steps aside for a successor just before he heads to Chicago to compete at IML. Lenny Broberg will co-emcee with T.Jay Cain.

The Edge Bar ends its week-long 12th anniversary week tonight with all sorts of surprises. The place has rocked the Castro all week. Best wishes for future success to the Edge and its wonderful staff.

Wednesday, May 14

SM 101 Training tonight at the Powerhouse, with Cirrus from Mister S giving you the dish on Electrical Play. Don't miss this one!

Golden Shower Buddies splash it up at 933 Harrison tonight. Doors open 2100 to 2300. For more details, dial 777-HEAD.

Weekend, May 16-18

South Central Leather Sir/Boy competition at the Eagle Bar in Dallas. Winners go on to compete in Florida in October. Always a fun time at the Dallas Eagle.

The Eulenspiegel Society in NY presents TES weekend with play parties, dungeon, events. Click on: www.fetishmarathon.com.

Friday, May 16

Exiles of SF monthly meeting with a presentation by Cleo Dubois on "The Magic of Play Piercing." Doors open 1930, program at 2000. In the Women's building (scarce parking in that neighborhood).

Saturday, May 17

Armed Forces Day Uniform Party at Daddy's, with a beer/soda bust to benefit Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. Uniforms suggested.

Tuesday, May 20

Send-off party for Richie the BootBlack at Daddy's. Richie will be competing for International Boot Black in Chicago at IML 2003. Show up and give him some encouragement.

Weekend, May 23-26

Thousands of leather folk converge on Chicago for IML 2003, the 25th anniversary with International Mr. Leather contest, International Boot Black, Mr. Ebony in Leather, the Black & Blue Ball and hundreds of parties including circuit queens cashing in with their brand new leathers that will never see the ravages of dungeon, golden shower, bondage & discipline and raw leather sex. It should be a fun weekend. See you there?

FILM

The flesh museum

'Forbidden Photographs: Charles Gatewood' plays the Roxie Cinema

by David Lamble

Charles' work demands attention. It's not something to look at on a pretty wall, or it's not something to see in your Grandma's house or your dentist's office. It's something that reaches out and grabs your fucking balls, and holds on to you and demands to be looked at."

An unabashed fan, the spiky-blond San Francisco fetish model Jamison Black, gives this ready-to-wear blurb. Hers are the first words you hear in *Forbidden Photographs*, Bill Macdonald's exhaustively documented portrait of the life and work of photographer Charles Gatewood; 80 minutes later, it's pretty hard not to agree with her.

I first encountered some of Gatewood's unforgettable images — portraits of leather guys hanging from hooks inserted in their flesh — sometime in the '80s, and I confess I wasn't quite ready for the full-throttle intensity of it all. Many years later, watching a film of a man having a nail driven through his penis — while my 19-year-old companion of the time dove under his seat — I started to grasp, appreciate, and finally love the living museum of fetish and body-art photography that Gatewood has amassed.

If the late Al Hirschfeld had sketched Charles Gatewood, the drawing would undoubtedly have shown a stringbean of a body supporting an enormous head, with a huge pair of eyes peering through glasses into the third eye of a camera. Gatewood, who could pass for William Burroughs' younger brother, spends as much of the film clicking his shutter as he does speaking.

The son of Texas working-class people, Gatewood recalls his mother as a woman who went from working in the cotton fields to the cotton mills, while confessing that she heard radio signals in her head. Gatewood says his parents were "drunks, party animals" who spent their free time in rural honky-tonks. He describes his own coming-of-age moment, when he glimpsed the source of his passion by spying a naked woman in the dressing room of a local swimming pool. Caught out, Gatewood tried to flee, and man-



Gatewood trained his photo eye on SF's radical sexual pagan scene.

aged to scrape the skin off his back, producing what he remembers as an intoxicating blend of "fear, greed, lust, dirt, blood and all the exciting feelings that come from that mix as a kid."

Young Gatewood got a taste of adult life at age 8, riding on the back of his mom's biker boyfriend's Harley. When his father eventually disappeared into the life of a traveling salesman, he would experience the frying-pan-to-the-fire fate of sleeping "with a hammer under my pillow" to fend off an abusive stepfather.

Trip out

During the '60s, Gatewood was a photo gypsy, capturing the tumult with stunning black-and-white images of the freaky and the famous. His early triumphs include a memorable shot of a burned-out Bob Dylan during the *Blonde on Blonde* tour; and an especially dreamy photo of Allen Ginsberg tripping out during a poetry reading.

Recovering from a 25-year drinking binge, Gatewood relocated to San Francisco and started to train his Diane Arbus-like photo eye on the city's emerging radical sexual pagan scene; he continues now to document such

culturally seminal events as Burning Man. Gatewood clearly loves his unusual subjects, allowing us to see the unalloyed beauty in a painted male face whose eyes are veiled by tattoo needles. At times some of the subjects are hard to take — one man proudly displays a penis that he has split with a razor like a hot dog awaiting mustard, relish and a bun — but even when documenting a vampire blood ritual, Gatewood's is a nonjudgmental, compassionate eye. As one admirer states, he "allows the soul of the subject to come towards him."

Forbidden Photographs suffers from the same self-justifying, psychobabble framing devices that taint early pornography, but some of the commentary explaining Gatewood's missionary photowork among the city's sexual primitives has a real poignant ring to it. As San Francisco novelist Herb Gold recalls, "Looking at [Gatewood's] subjects, one is often struck by the thought, where are they now? And Charles would say, 'They're dead now.'" ▼

Forbidden Photographs, the Life and Work of Charles Gatewood plays the Roxie Cinema, May 9-16.

Pollini on CD

◀ page 34

existential, life-and-death about this "Appassionata." It feels like Pollini is playing for his own life, trying to prove that he's still "got it" — when no one has posed the question. Whatever lies behind it, this is hardly an unfeeling interpretation, but the dominant emotion is rage. As always, rage becomes tiresome over the long haul.

Pollini's Schumann, recorded a year earlier, seemed to herald a mel-

lower, more seasoned pianist. But here it's back to summary heavy-handedness. Beethoven the revolutionary is audible everywhere; Beethoven the virtual idolater of joy is banished from the premises.

DG is doing some weird things with packaging lately. I bought my copy, and, if I hadn't noticed a slight price increase, I also might not have noticed that there is an entire bonus CD, of the Op. 74 and the "Appassionata" live from Vienna, recorded the same month as the studio takes. There is no mention of it whatever on the

jewel box or in the booklet.

In Vienna, the playing is, if anything, even harder and more driven. The Op. 74 Allegro vivace is faster and, not surprisingly, messier. Pollini doesn't drop a note, but smudges the lines noticeably. The "Appassionata" seems to have morphed out of Scriabin's "Black Mass" sonata, with something patently diabolical in every figure. It doesn't just flirt with the limits of expression, but sometimes patently veers out of control. The blood-thirsty Viennese public goes wild. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

being the 25th anniversary, many surprises are in store for the attendees and Chicago is ready to welcome you all with open arms

(and no doubt open legs!). Just how many of the former IML winners will be on hand is still open to question. It should be a hot time in the Windy City on Memorial Day weekend. I hope you can be there for the world's biggest leather competition.

Lots more fun events are ahead your way in the coming months, so gear yourself up for all the festivities planned. The year 2003 looks like another bonanza year for leather. Can you stand it? ▼

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You really surprised me with your intense eye-lock as you got off at Fruitvale. I didn't think you had even noticed me. You, with bicycle, bone necklace, short light brown hair. Me, grey-black hair and moustache, blue and white striped shirt with grey hooded sweatshirt. ☎ 72560

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Good looking GWM 35 looking for good looking Latino HIV- for relationship. No drugs, please. ☎ 72553

•Asian•
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Nip Work Drives My Dick Crazy. U2?
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Got Balls?
Looking for some mutual nut for with similar inscape GWM. I am HIV+, nice body, furry, daddy-type. Into weights straps pulling squeezing sucking. I like men with body hair, tall, 40's. ☎ 72578

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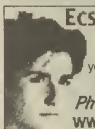
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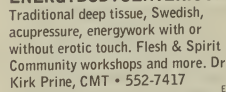
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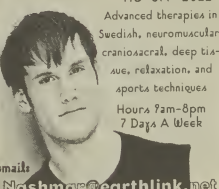
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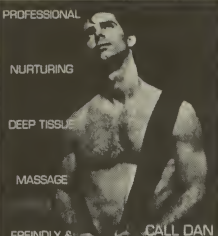
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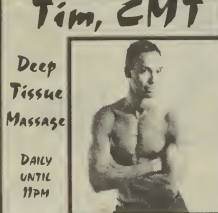
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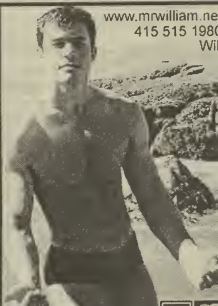


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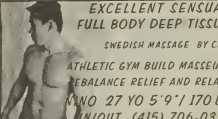
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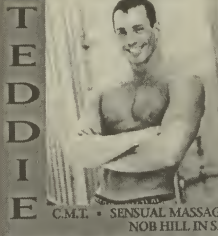
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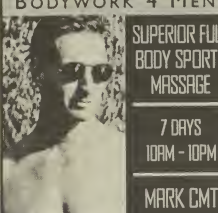
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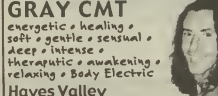
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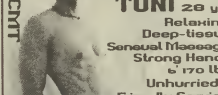
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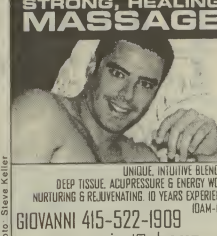
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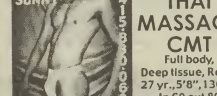
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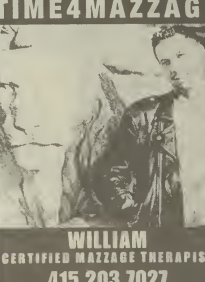
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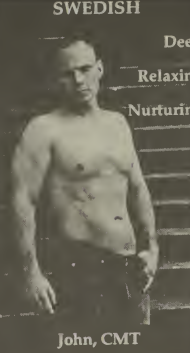
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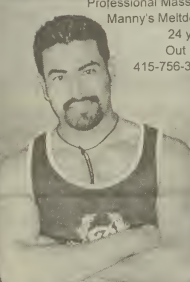
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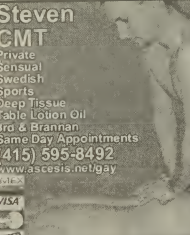


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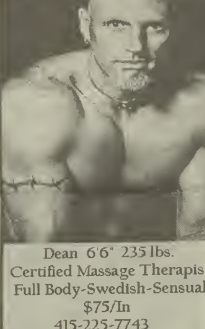
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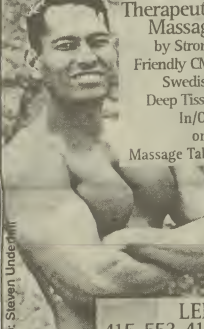
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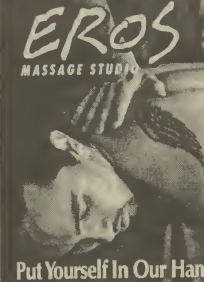
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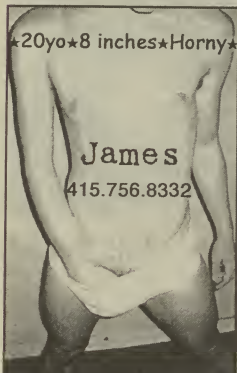
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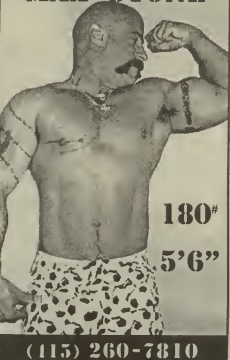
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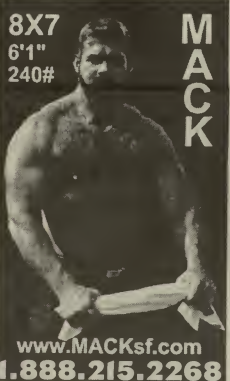
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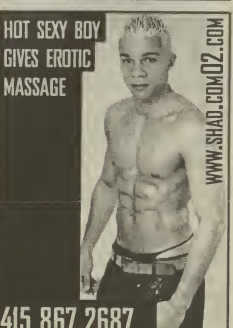
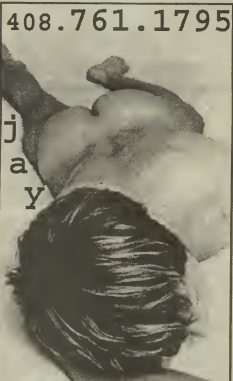
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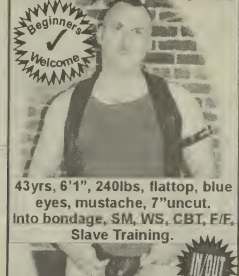
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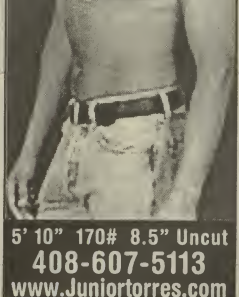
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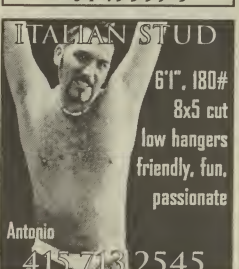
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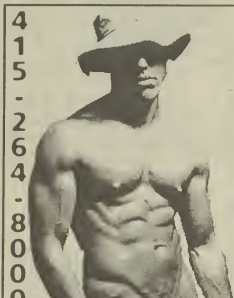
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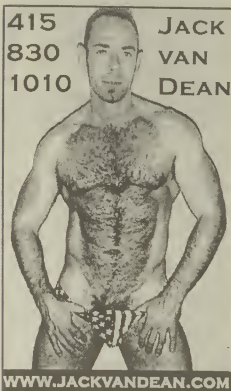
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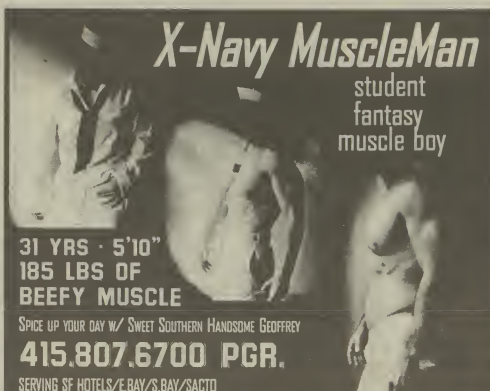
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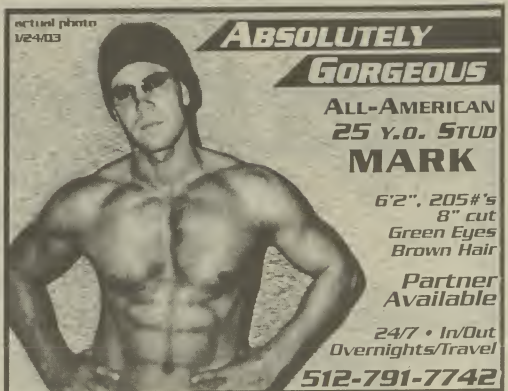
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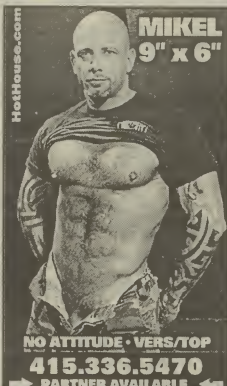


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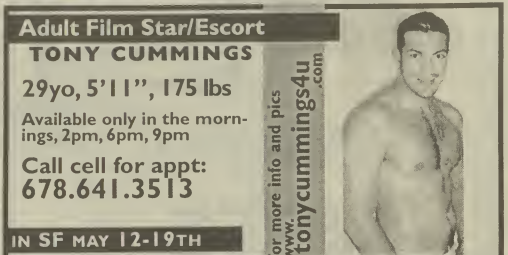
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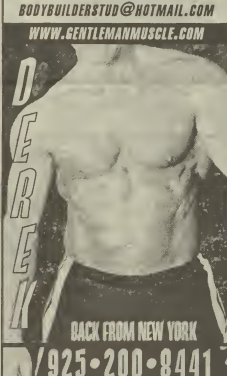
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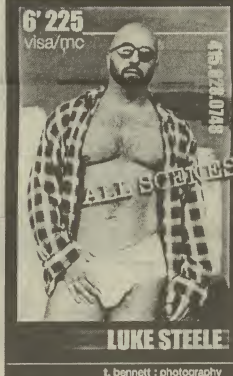
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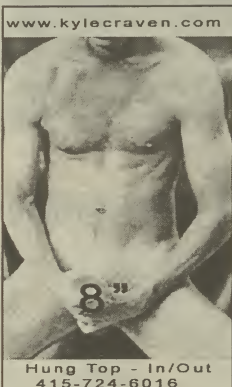


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TOP wants submissive butt pigs.
 415-752-0971.

Local Men Sexdate: 888-788-8989

LOVE YOUR CAR?

or know someone who does? I'll do a professional line drawing of your, or someone else's car - suitable for framing. My work has appeared in national magazines, at car shows and on t-shirts. Forget a gift certificate...put some thought into your gifts...\$100.
 DustinHill1968@aol.com or call 415-474-9647.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
SF BOYS OF LEATHER

on the success of your Pre-Oscar Party @ Daddy's on Saturday, March 22nd. Good show!

Spank As U lik it 510-654-1122

BAY AREA REPORTER

PERSONALS ORDER FORM

DEADLINE

NOON on MONDAY.

Payment must accompany ad.
 No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019.
 Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular 4.50
 All subsequent lines 3.00
 CAPS double price
BOLD double price
X-BOLD triple price

PAYMENT

- ☐ Cash
☐ Personal Check
☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH
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BAY AREA
REPORTER

395 Ninth Street
 San Francisco, CA
 94103

OR FAX TO:
 415.861.8144

Indicate
 Type Style
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X-BOLD Stops Here ▼

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PERSONALS

PEOPLE



EMAIL
your
message or
model/escort
ad to

BARadv@aol.com

BAY AREA REPORTER

MR. SF LEATHER 2004
contest is Saturday, Sep. 27th, 2003
Are you man/leather enough to hold
the title? Plan now. Get involved!

HOTHOUSE.COM/FREE XXX
HOTHOUSE.COM/FREE XXX
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LEATHER NEWS

from around the U.S. & Canada by
seasoned journalists ONLY on
www.LeatherPage.com. Check it out!

DYKE DADDY & DYKE
DIVA CONTESTS COMING..
Mark your calendar for Saturday,
May 3rd. Plan now. Compete!

~GAY PRIDE 2003~
BOOK YOUR ADS EARLY!
DISPLAY DEADLINES JUNE
13TH @ 5:00PM. CLASSIFIED
LINE ADS JUNE 23 @ 12:00PM
CALL FOR INFO AND RATES
CALL 415-861-5019 OR EMAIL
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San Francisco's #1 Gay Dateline
Call: 1-900-255-2221. \$2.99 min.
18+. \$3.49 connection charge.

WM will JO/BJ/Rim all races 18-28,
fit. S Cruz Co. 831-722-3739

GWM, 40, 8" cut, HIV-, sucks &
bends over for long cut & uncut
White, Latin and Black Dicks. Clay
@ 863-2667

Hot mouth tight ass Santa Rosa
muscle 707 523 4467 8x6 uncut

Great cocksucker 285-8390

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

SH'DIVA BLACK

DYKE DIVA 2003

JAY KIMBALL

DYKE DADDY 2003

and to Ren Phoenix-Davis for a fabu-
lous 2003 edition of the Dyke Com-
munity's title holder event!

LOCAL MUSCLE

Hot Bay Area men. Voice Mail
or Live. 3.95 min. 1-900-438-4097.
888-254-4286 credit cards.

~GAY PRIDE 2003~
BOOK YOUR ADS EARLY!
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13TH @ 5:00PM. CLASSIFIED
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XXX WEB

WHAT WAITS FOR YOU AT M4M?

Well, Sex
of Course...

"On-line's
best meat
market"
—salon.com



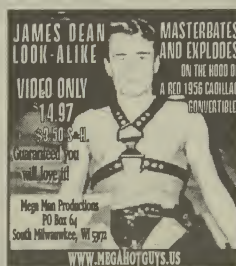
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Get It On...

m4m4sex.com
WHAT YOU REALLY WANT ALL THE TIME!

HOTOLDERMALE.COM

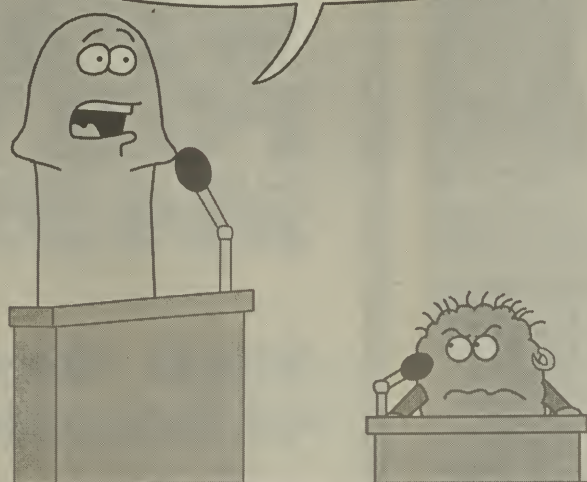
Hot daddies and their admirers.
Photo ads, galleries, models,
Looking for daddy models 40-65.
models@hotoldermale.com
Call 800-837-6007



HEALTHY PENIS DEBATES PHIL
THE SYPHILIS SORE.



HAVING SYPHILIS MAKES IT 2 TO 5
TIMES *EASIER* TO PASS HIV TO
YOUR SEX PARTNERS.

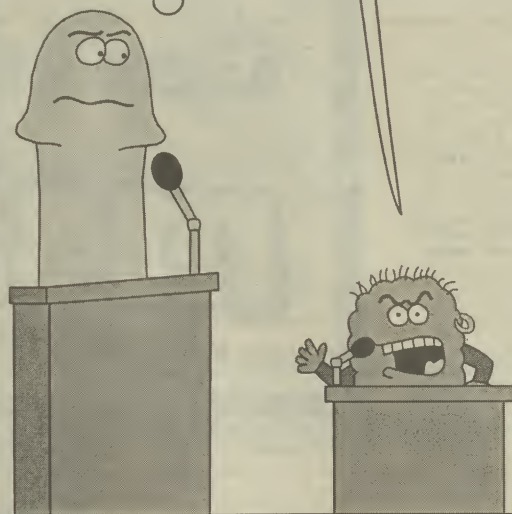


ALSO, IF YOU DON'T GET TESTED REGULARLY,
YOU COULD HAVE SYPHILIS AND NOT KNOW IT.
AFTER A WHILE, IT CAN CAUSE PERMANENT
DAMAGE TO YOUR HEART AND BRAIN.



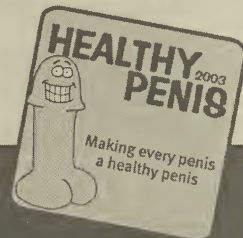
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT
A LITTLE BRAIN DAMAGE?

WHY AM I EVEN
DEBATING THIS GUY?



METZGER

Syphilis is spread by "skin-to-skin" contact, through anal, vaginal AND oral sex.
Many people don't notice the symptoms or know they have syphilis.
The initial sore is painless. The good news is syphilis is easily cured.



GET TESTED FOR SYPHILIS

www.healthypenis2003.org 415.487.5580

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DESIGN: BETTER WORLD ADVERTISING (www.socialmarketing.com)